

WILDLIFE

25 CENTS

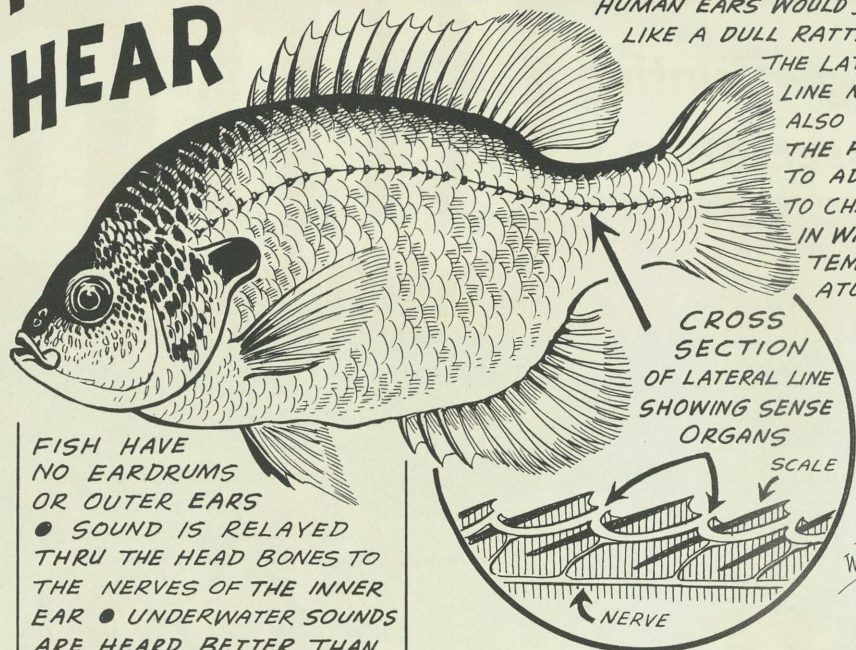


FLORIDA

HOW FISH HEAR

THE LATERAL LINE CONTAINS SENSE ORGANS WITH WHICH THE FISH DETECTS LOW FREQUENCY VIBRATIONS THAT TO HUMAN EARS WOULD SOUND LIKE A DULL RATTLE •

THE LATERAL LINE MAY ALSO AID THE FISH TO ADAPT TO CHANGES IN WATER TEMPERATURE



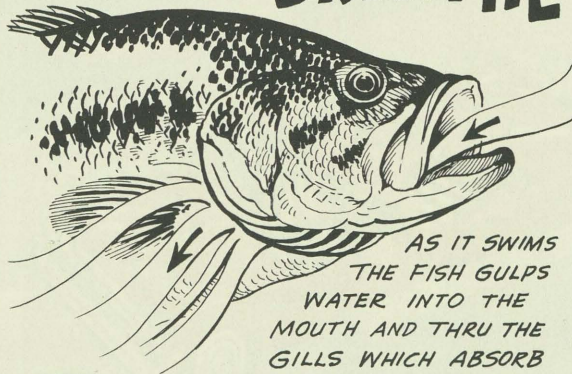
FISH HAVE NO EARDRUMS OR OUTER EARS • SOUND IS RELAYED THRU THE HEAD BONES TO THE NERVES OF THE INNER EAR • UNDERWATER SOUNDS ARE HEARD BETTER THAN SURFACE NOISES • BASS ARE SAID TO HEAR THE APPROACH OF A ROW BOAT BEFORE THAT OF A MOTOR BOAT

THE FISH'S EQUILIBRIUM OR BALANCE IN THE WATER IS CONTROLLED BY THE INNER EAR

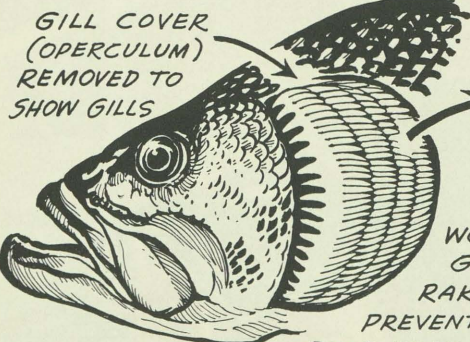
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

HOW FISH BREATHE

THE GILLS OF THE FISH SEPARATES DISSOLVED OXYGEN FROM THE WATER • SOME SPECIES OF FISH CAN LIVE ON LESS OXYGEN THAN OTHERS • FISH WOULD SUFFOCATE IN BOILED OR DISTILLED WATER • THERE IS MORE DISSOLVED OXYGEN IN COLD WATER THAN IN WARM WATER • POLLUTION LOWERS OXYGEN CONTENT OF WATER AND FORMS GASES WHICH KILL FISH



AS IT SWIMS THE FISH GULPS WATER INTO THE MOUTH AND THRU THE GILLS WHICH ABSORB OXYGEN AND EXPEL CARBON DIOXIDE



GILL COVER (OPERCULUM) REMOVED TO SHOW GILLS

NET WORK OF GILL RAKERS PREVENT THE GILLS FROM BEING CLOGGED BY DEBRIS IN THE WATER

BONY GILL ARCH- USUALLY 4

GILLS ARE SOFT FLESHY FILAMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE GILL ARCHES • MANY TINY BLOOD VESSELS GIVE THEM A BRIGHT RED COLOR

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

WILDLIFE SCRAPBOOK

★

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

**Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of our Game and Fish**

★

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HUNTING SEASON NOTES

1962 - 1963

FLORIDA'S 1962-63 general hunting season for resident game birds and animals will open Saturday, November 17, in all districts of the state.

The opening date—applying to deer, turkey, quail, squirrel and bear, was set during a formal meeting of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at Tallahassee July 20, 1962.

Hunting will be allowed everyday in the First, Third and Fourth Conservation Districts, as last year.

In the Northeast Florida Second District, eleven counties will be open this year to every-day hunting. Counties remaining under the "staggered day" hunting system, with Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays being closed each week, are Levy, Dixie, Alachua, Gilchrist and Lafayette. Counties which were previously under the staggered-day hunting, but which will be under everyday hunting this year, are Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Hamilton, Madison, Nassau, Suwannee, Taylor and Union.

The Fifth District, Central Florida, will remain under the Staggered-day hunting season, except a portion of Sumter County south of State Roads 476 and 48. The Ocala National Forest will be closed to hunting Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays during the period December 25 through January 1.

In sections of the state having staggered-day hunting, hunting will be allowed everyday during the first nine days, November 17 to November 25, and the period December 25 through January 1. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays will be closed at all other times.

Shooting hours for resident game species will remain at from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset on each open day.

Deer

Buck deer with one or more five-inch antlers, one per day, two per season.

First District: opens November

17, closes January 6. Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, and DeSoto counties, and that part of Hillsborough county south of U. S. Highway 92, closed at all times.

Second District: Opens November 17, closes January 6. Alachua, Bradford and a portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18, and east of U. S. 441 closed. Special season in Gilchrist County and that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339, November 17 through December 9.

Third District: Opens November 17, closes January 13. Special season in Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Escambia counties to open November 17 through December 2, and December 15 through January 1, to coincide with season in Eglin Air Force Military Reservation. Washington, Holmes and Jackson Counties closed.

Fourth District: Opens November 17, closes January 6. Monroe closed to Key Deer.

Fifth District: Opens November 17, closes January 6.

Turkey

Turkey of either sex legal game during regular season, two per day, three per season.

First District: Opens November 17, closes January 6. Special season in DeSoto and Hardee counties to open November 17 through December 2, and December 22 through

NEXT MONTH

Complete Hunting Season Summary Waterfowl Regulations

Hunting regulation summaries for the 1962-63 season are available by writing to the Regional Offices, listed on page 3, or to: Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm., Tallahassee, Florida.

January 1. Pinellas County closed.

Second District: Opens November 17, closes January 6. Alachua, Bradford and that portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18 and east of U. S. 441 closed at all times. Spring turkey gobbler (hens protected) hunting season March 30 through April 14, one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon. Dixie, Lafayette, Levy and Gilchrist counties closed to Spring Gobbler season.

Third District: Opens November 17, closes January 13. Spring turkey gobbler (hens protected) hunting season March 30 through April 14, one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon, open west of the Choctawhatchee River and in Leon and Jefferson counties.

Fourth & Fifth Districts: Open November 17, close January 6. Collier County, previously closed to turkey hunting, will be open this year.

Quail

Opens statewide November 17, closes in First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Districts February 17. Closes Third District, Northwest Florida, February 24. Daily bag limit 10, with no season bag limit.

Squirrel

Opens statewide November 17, closes in First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Districts February 17. Closes Third District, Northwest Florida, February 24. Daily bag limit of 10 gray squirrels and two fox squirrels, with no season bag limit.

Bear

Black bear legal game during open deer season and special managed hunts only. Daily and seasonal bag limited to one. Cub bears protected at all times. ●

THE COVER

The task of preserving and improving Florida's fresh water fishing is complex, with many specialized programs. Federal Aid funds play an important part in the extensive programs designed For Better Fishing—See Page 10.

Cover Painting By Martin Filchock

Clubs and Conservation

AN APPEAL FOR OUTDOOR education in America's schools and a criticism of the "varsity athletics craze" were voiced by Erwin A. Bauer in the July issue of Sports Afield.

Coming close on the heels of public remarks by leading Americans regarding the physical softness of American youth, the article reviewed the attitudes of various educators who had expressed scorn, apathy or animosity toward suggested "outdoor subjects" as a part of the physical education program. Bauer's article stressed the fact that "outdoor" training in such skills as shooting, casting, archery and nature study could provide the student with recreation for a lifetime rather than the brief period of competition and glory that is the lot of a chosen few of varsity athletes.

Bauer pointed to the worship of varsity athletics so prevalent in some universities and told how the training of teams takes over the physical education department while the physical well-being of the vast majority of students is ignored. He cited the example of one high school which cultivated basketball championships with "more coaches than math teachers" and with "better paid" coaches. That school, he states, led all others of the region in delinquency.

At the same time, there were demonstrations to prove the questioned stamina of American youth. Ross Allen, outdoorsman operator of Ross Allen's Reptile Institute at Silver Springs, led a cross-Florida hike of youngsters who lived off the country in demonstration of their survival ability.

Some observers felt that Allen's demonstration was of great value although it probably did not feature the "weakling" fringe of juvenile America.

League Resolutions

The following is a brief resumé of resolutions passed by the Florida

Division of the Izaak Walton League of America at their spring convention.

1. Request for state and federal protection of areas lying off the Florida Keys to prevent destruction of marine products and underwater historical objects.

2. Advocacy of an antiquities act for Florida to prevent the loss to the public of "valuable artifacts and items of historical value."

3. Request that the board of county commissioners of Monroe County consider opening Pigeon Key on the Florida Keys for public use.

4. Support of a request of the National Park Service for additional area for Everglades National Park.

5. Support of move to establish a shell refuge on Sanibel or Captiva Island.

6. Support of move to establish a national cabinet seat for conservation.

7. Opposition to proposed oil refinery in Dade County.

8. Support of the Governor's committee on Recreational Development.

9. Proposal of natural science exhibits for the National Science Fair.

10. Proposal of a "damaging wake law" for Florida Waterways.

11. Proposal of a third outlet for Lake Okeechobee to provide water for the Everglades area.

12. Advocacy of public access as an integral part of future projects using state or matching funds.

13. Urges state and national conservation agencies to study the advisability for strict regulations regarding the taking of striped bass by commercial and sports fishermen.

14. Urges continued emphasis on the dangers of uncontrolled use of detergents, poisons, pesticides and sprays to the Governor's committee on Recreational Development.

15. Urges increased vigilance regarding dredge and fill projects and their effect on river and bay bottoms.

(Continued on page 32)

Three Phase Dove Season

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNT DATES AND REGULATIONS

FLORIDA HUNTERS WILL HAVE a three-phase season for migratory dove hunting during the 1962-63 season.

The first phase will be open for dove hunters October 6 through November 4, with Hardee, DeSoto and Glades Counties, and that portion of Franklin County known as Alligator Point, closed to dove hunting.

The second phase opens statewide November 22 to run through December 9. The third phase will be open statewide December 22 through January 12.

Shooting will be allowed from **12:00 noon until sunset** of each open day. Daily bag limit for dove will be 12, with a possession limit of two days bag.

Other rules for migratory game during the 1962-63 season are as follows: Rail (marsh hens), open September 15 through November 18, with a daily bag of 15, plus 25 sora rail, with total possession of 30, plus 25 sora. Woodcock season open December 15 through January 13, with a daily bag of four, and total possession of eight. Snipe hunting season open December 15 through January 13, with a daily bag of eight, and total possession of eight.

Waterfowl hunting seasons—for duck, geese and coot—will be announced later when established by the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

In other action at the annual rules and regulations meeting, the Commission voted to have the Everglades Wildlife Management Area included in the special \$5 Public Hunting Permit. The Commission also closed all frog hunting in Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier and Hendry Counties, and again prohibited the use of outboard motors on Lake Iamonia and Lake Jackson in Leon County during the duck hunting season. ●

FISHING

Some ideas, and experiences, about taking fishing pictures

By CHARLES WATERMAN



YOU'VE SEEN A LOT OF photographs of jumping fish but don't think you're going to reach casually into your lunchbox, come up with your trusty box Brownie and click off a calendar picture of a jumping bass.

Bitter experience has taught me that if conditions are just right, that if you are paying full attention to your preset and focused camera and that if you push the button just as the subject flings himself into the air the chances are still about 20 to one against your coming up with anything worth hanging in the living room.

No matter how candid they may look, most "jump" photos are the end result of long hours of planning and were shot by a photographer who was engaged in nothing but using his camera.

The movie cameraman has some advantage here as his timing needn't be so precisely on the nose but he too is unlikely to wow his home audience if he simply lays down his rod for a hurried "squirt" of film now and then.

Anyone who makes good action pictures of fishing is likely to be a fisherman himself but he'll find taking photos is a full time job and chances are that he'll need a few extra hands and feet in the bargain.

In years of trying I never did get a picture of a jumping bass that really suited me. In the first place, most bass don't jump but two or three times when hooked. The bigger the bass, the less likely he is to pose in mid-air and the ones that I really caught in the act were too small and looked even smaller from the angle I was forced to shoot.

It takes a camera boat in addition to the fishing boat to do the job unless the fisherman wades, which simplifies things a little.

It is amazing how many times you

can photograph a fish in the air and still never get anything that looks like a fish. I have a whole file of carefully exposed blobs of something or other that I know to be fish in the air. A hopping fish can be headed in a lot of directions when you click the shutter but seldom is he in the accepted broadside pose everybody wants.

Tarpon are the best subjects for jump photography, simply because they jump a lot and jump high. About one out of every 20 jumping tarpon that I photograph is recognizable as a tarpon.

To make the picture mean anything you really should catch the fisherman in it too and to do that you have to know where the fish is going to come up in addition to just when he is going to do it.

A fresh-as-a-daisy fish is next to impossible. After he begins to tire you can sometimes pester him into jumping where you want him. The

best tarpon jumps I have taken were of tired fish that had been maneuvered into position and then goaded into the air with perks on the rod.

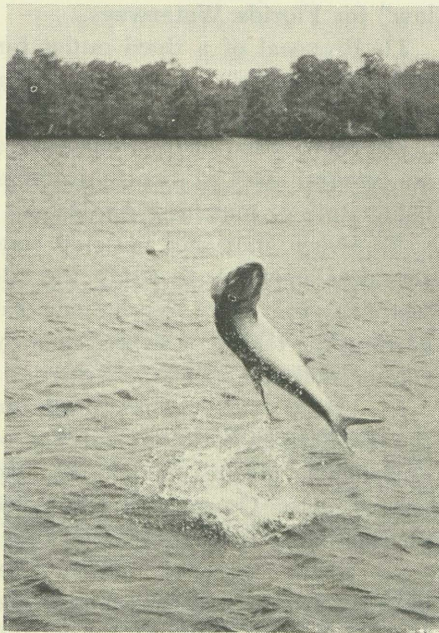
In my serious efforts at getting jumping fish pictures, I've employed a second boat, sometimes a little pram towed to the fishing scene for the purpose. Once on the spot, I take off in the pram with my trusty camera while the fishermen go to work. I focus on the spot I *HOPE* something will happen and then keep the same distance away from it as much as possible.

Generally speaking, your still camera should have a 1/500 shutter or faster for satisfactory fish jumping pictures. The perfect setup is to have the fish jump between you and the fisherman. If the fisherman isn't in the picture it could be anybody's fish. If you're making movies, much the same system is employed although you don't have to take quite as many pains to make the fish look big.

My best ones are partly accidental. Twice I have photographed a casting plug being thrown from a tarpon's mouth and although those pictures please me mightily, neither shows the fisherman and they aren't valuable.

Accidents work the other way, too. Bill Stephens of Homestead once took a picture of me playing a tarpon in Bear Lake near Flamingo. I had waded out above my knees and he was shooting from shore. The fish jumped perfectly and Bill shot it right on the nose. It was late evening and I was sure the flash went at just the right time.

When the film was developed I couldn't even find the tarpon at first. Going over the negative with a magnifying glass I finally made it out, almost perfectly superimposed upon a dead snag sticking out of the wa-



A tarpon tossing back the plug. A lucky photo, but of little value since the fisherman does not show.

ter. Bill's beautiful shot was no good after all as you'd have to send along a page of descriptive matter to indicate where the fish was.

If you're a casual photographer and think some good jumping fish pictures would be fun, I have one bit of advice—forget it!

On the other hand a good photographic coverage of your fishing trips is relatively easy if you'll stay on the job.

The first rule is to take the camera along. Few photos made at the dock, sporting goods store or backyard have nearly the punch of those made on the scene when everybody is having fun and triumph or tragedy is fresh.

Photographic excellence isn't necessary to make a picture valuable to you.

For years, I made my living mainly with photography but the most valued fishing pictures I have are some contact-printed snapshots made when I was about 12 years old and went fishing with a couple of friends, Don Buck and Joe Bennett, back in Kansas. The fish were small but the pictures are chock full of leaky old boats and nostalgia.

If your buddy caught a 10-pound bass, a picture made five minutes later would be much better than one made five hours later. Don't ask why. It just is, that's all.

Fishing for bream the other day, it occurred to me that artificial flies for them can be divided into four distinct classifications.

The first kind would be the popping bug or other high-floating surface gadget. Second would be the low-floating fly that lies half-submerged in the surface film. Best example of that is the popular rubber spiders, generally with rubber legs. Third is the sinking fly that is worked along beneath the surface at various depths. Then, there's the lure that goes clear to the bottom and is fished there.

All of these are useful in the bream business. I have repeatedly



The puzzle here: find the jumping fish! In case you need help, the fish looks like an extension of the dead limb, at left. This is just one of a thousand things that can go wrong in photographing fishing action.

found the little fellows sharply particular as to just the depth their prey is to be found.

Buying a vacuum jug for use in a fishing boat is something not to be taken lightly. I used to say the most expensive was best but now I'm wavering a little.

I recently noted that a cheap little old plastic jug kept liquid cold longer than a \$45 stainless steel one. Of course it wouldn't stand as much of a beating and it is probably an exception.

I have had wonderful service with some expensive stainless steel jugs but when they DID start to leak (around the spout) no one wanted to repair them and they had to be returned to the factory.

I realize that these fine jugs were subjected to more abuse than any jug is intended for. A couple of years of being bounced around in fishing boats and jeeps will bring out trouble if anything will.

But for rough and tumble use I'm beginning to lean toward cheap plastic jugs that can be thrown away when their usefulness is over. I find they often hold temperatures quite satisfactorily.

No one is more of a gun nut than I and any new firearms restriction

brings wails of agony from me but I must confess to apprehension when I hear shooting from a fishing boat.

The guns taken along "to shoot snakes and sharks" are best left put away until those infrequent contingencies arise. Water is a bad place to be plinking unless you doggoned well know what you're doing.

In ten years of Florida fishing, there have been two times when I have felt it would be nice to have a gun along and it wasn't urgent in either case.

Given a choice, most fishing experts would prefer to have their strikes on a fairly short line. The reason is simply one of setting the hook and there's a lot of slack to be taken up when your fish is 'way out there.

This business shows up especially with spinning rods. When you get a strike at full length of a long spinning cast, you must overcome the bend in the rod, the drag of line in the water, the stretch of your line—and any slack which may exist—before you can get the hook in where it counts.

These problems are multiplied when you're using a surface lure because most top-water baits are re-

(Continued on page 34)

MUZZLE FLASHES

Now is the time to prepare
your guns for the hunting season

By EDMUND McLAURIN



FEW OWNERS OF AN assortment of firearms, or even one gun, get by long without having to make some alteration or repair. Unfortunately, as the gun makers sadly relate, most of us put off needed gun repair work until the very last minute, then usually expect fast service from factory or local gunsmith . . .

I admit to a tendency to procrastinate; in fact, only the scheduled writing of this article prodded me into getting off an order for a small spring needed for a hunting rifle. I've known I had to have it, but somehow never got around to ordering it—until today!

Even if your gun functions reliably, it is a good idea to periodically replace worn parts—especially long-used finger operated safeties, firing pins and ejectors.

On two occasions I have had firearms discharge unexpectedly because of worn internal parts—much to my embarrassment, even though I had taken the precaution of first pointing gun barrel away from self and others.

From experience, I have learned that it is best to dismantle a gun after a season of hard use, inspect each part under a magnifying glass for wear, then replace those showing marked wear, before the next season.

Also, if I have to mount a scope or receiver sight on a new rifle and sight-in, or cut off a gunstock to give me correct length of pull, I try to do those jobs at least three months ahead of hunting season. Then, if any problems should develop, I will have time to work them out.

In brief, about this time every year I decide just what gun models and bullet loads will be used for the coming season's hunting, and take steps to assemble all components.

By hunting season, I know my

current interest equipment as well as the whisker-growth pattern on my face.

Shotgun models like the side-by-side L. C. Smith, Ithaca, Parker and original Ansley Fox doubles, and the Winchester Model 1897 and Remington Model 31 pumps, are no longer manufactured. Also, in some cases, the remaining manufacturer-stock of component parts of discontinued models have long ago been exhausted. Gun owners needing several new parts have had to either salvage parts from a discarded gun of same model, or reluctantly retire a favorite weapon. To have a gunsmith make a number of different replacement parts by hand is usually too costly.

However, there are some current sources for obsolete or otherwise hard-to-get small or major component gun parts.

One firm, Gun Parts Old & New, 116 N. 7th Street, Rogers, Arkansas, has about fifty million gun parts in stock. In fact, representation is so

comprehensive that even the firm's personnel don't know what gun models some of them were originally designed to fit! Shooters needing replacement parts are urged to either send a drawing of part wanted, or the old part (if available) and the name of the gun model for which it is needed. Due to the huge volume of mail received from shooters, the firm will answer non-order inquiries only if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is sent with request for information and price.

Springs of all kinds can be had from W. C. Wolff Company, Box 232, Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and from Springsmith, 875 57th Street, Sacramento, California. In many cases, springs to fit older model guns must be made by hand. They are not expensive when obtained from a gunsmith specializing in spring making.

Parts for antique guns can be ordered from either Glenn's Antique Arms Supplies, P. O. Box 40141, Indianapolis 40, Indiana, or Dixie Gun Works, Union City, Pennsylvania.

If you need a part for a U. S. military weapon, past or present, try H. M. Schoeller, 575 So. Braddock Ave., Pittsburgh 21, Pennsylvania. For components and accessories to fit Springfield, Krag, Enfield, M1 Carbine and .45 Auto weapons, inquire of Springfield Sporters, Inc., RD #1, Penn Run, Pennsylvania, or the Gun Shop, 171 Baier Avenue, Somerset, New Jersey, if you cannot find the desired part locally.

Parts for German Luger handguns are not too hard to find. Jack Gordon, 418 Washington Ave., Elizabeth, New Jersey, is a source. So is Fred A. Datig, Box 3183, Beverly Hills, California. . . .

If you did a lot of missing last season, and have reason to suspect your gunstock's fit is not all it



Good gunsmithing takes time, so get needed work done before hunting season starts.

should be, now is the time to do something about it.

Proper gunstock fit is especially important to the shotgunner. Various measurements must be correct if the gun is to fit properly and handle well. Consciously or subconsciously, a line of sight is drawn between the shooter's aiming eye and his shotgun's front sight each time he shoulders the weapon. If position of the aiming eye varies, so will the resultant line of aim and accuracy, which explains why expert shotgunners take care to have comb height correct and to place the face in the same position on the stock for each shot.

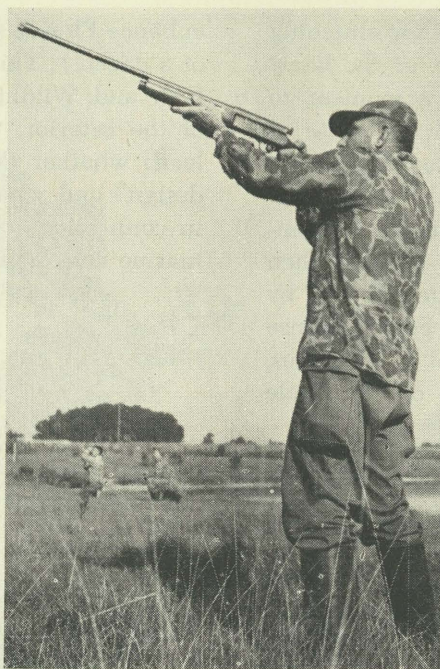
Anything that helps achieve this desired, uniform, repeated alignment of aiming eye and exact center of gun breach or barrel rib can be considered beneficial to the shooter.

The principle holds true in rifle shooting as well as shotgunning. Comb height must be correct if the shooter's face is to be supported at the right height for an accurate, steady line of sight. It is why comb height must be brought up to correspond with higher sight line when a scope sight is put on a rifle originally stocked for low-line metallic sights. This is accomplished by either building up comb height with an inlaid strip of wood, or by lacing on a comb pad of needed thickness. Both the Red Head Brand Company (Chicago) and Buddy Schoellkopf (Dallas) make top quality lace-on pads. They sell for about \$5.00....

Addition of a rubber recoil to a firearm not only dresses up the rifle or shotgun considerably, but contributes immeasurably to the pleasure of its use. Punishing, jarring recoil is definitely made less noticeable.

Where the gunstock is too short to provide correct length of pull—the measurement from center back edge of butt plate or installed recoil pad to center of trigger's curve—installation of a recoil pad of needed thickness will correct the fault.

Too short a gunstock tends to pound the thumb of the trigger hand



Even if your gun functions reliably, it is a good idea to periodically replace worn parts—especially long used finger-operated safeties, firing pins and ejectors.

against the shooter's face when recoil is severe, and too long a gunstock is a handicap, because it will catch on clothing just about every time the gun is shouldered.

Quality pads, like the Pachmayr, Marshon, Jostam and Red Head brands, last a long time before they begin to glaze and harden—as all rubber pads do in time—and require replacement.

Shortening of a gunstock and installation of a recoil pad may seem an easy job for the shooter. However, it involves a bit more skill than merely cutting off the stock to give correct length of pull, with the thickness of the recoil pad figured in.

With shotguns, the pitch of the stock is very closely tied in with shape of gunstock and normal pitch-down of barrel of about 1½ to 2 inches. A careless, slanting cut with the amputating saw and the shooter is in trouble! For example, slanting the cut toward the toe of the stock will result in excessive down pitch of gun muzzle, and too much wood removed at stock heel can cause gun alignment troubles, too. Finally, the newly installed

recoil pad must be neatly fitted and finished to hair-line accuracy—not easy if you do not have a polishing wheel, proper abrasives and the know-how.

A good gunsmith will charge from \$3.00 to \$6.00 (plus cost of the pad) and invariably do a really professional job.

Perhaps you need an entire new gunstock or fore-end piece. If so, E. C. Bishop & Sons, Warsaw, Missouri, or Reinhart Fajen, also of Warsaw, Missouri, can furnish a stock of duplicated factory design or a custom made version. Their stocks are world-famous.

Original stocks for military rifles and gun models long obsolete can be found by scanning the pages of *THE SHOTGUN NEWS* (Columbus, Nebraska). Often seen advertised are stocks for discontinued models like the Remington Model 31 and Winchester Model '97 shotguns.

Maybe you have a shotgun stock that does not fit your physique, but is so beautiful of wood grain that you refuse to replace it for one more practical. If so, there's still hope for good gun fit. Pachmayr Gun Works, 12220 So. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 15, can bend your present stock up or down as much as an inch, and even give it a full inch of cast off or cast on (if needed) without resorting to disfiguring stock surgery. The firm can also cut a stock to correct length, or increase it as needed in connection with the fitting of a Pachmayr recoil pad. The total cost is not cheap, but neither is the workmanship. The cost becomes increasingly inconsequential in the face of better gun fit obtained.

For the reader who is so gifted that he can take a blank of seasoned, beautifully grained walnut and patiently cut from it a handsome, perfectly dimensioned gunstock, there are several good sources for raw material. Roy Vail, Warwick, New York, specializes in French walnut blanks. Yama Wood Co., Dana Point, California, and Tropical Hardwoods Co., P. O. Box 175-R, Vernon

(Continued on page 34)

NEXT TIME YOU WALK OUT OF A tackle shop clutching that reel you've always yearned for, or the latest lure that you can't fish without, take a moment to consider that your purchase has helped the cause of sport fishing throughout the entire United States.

For on every dollar spent on tackle and accessories, the Federal government collects an eleven-cent excise tax. Money in the Federal kitty is then apportioned to the states, the amount determined by a formula which compares the number of license buyers in a particular state to the total in all states, and the area of that state to the area of the whole country.

This Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of August 9, 1950 (better known as the Dingell-Johnson Act), is currently supplying about \$100,000 a year to Florida, money which plays a vital role in helping to maintain and to improve our state's famous fishing in spite of increased pressures from all sides.

The model for the D-J Act was the Pittman-Robertson Act which was 25 years old September 2, 1962. This bill, which conservationists hail as one of the most constructive of its type ever adopted, provides for a 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, such taxes going into a special fund for distribution to the states to finance wildlife restoration projects.

It takes more than an open palm outstretched in the direction of Washington to be eligible for these grants, however. The pattern runs something like this; assume there is a need of some type which will

enhance Florida's sportfishing (you can probably think of a dozen!). This project proposal is submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Acting for the Secretary of the Interior, the Service reviews the proposals to learn whether they are "substantial in character and design" and whether they shall have "material value in connection with sport-fishing or recreation in the marine and/or fresh waters of the United States. . . ."

Photo By
Art Runnels

**The fisherman plays an important part in
helping maintain various fisheries
improvement programs**

FOR BETTER FISHING

By ART HUTT





Florida State News Bureau

Florida's population of people enjoying outdoor recreation is continually increasing. The same population growth brings about problems concerning the preservation of the state's beautiful waters from spoilage caused by industrial progress.

Once given the green light, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission carries out the plan, spending their own funds. The state then submits reimbursement claims for 75% of the cost of the project, either periodically or at completion of the work. The remaining 25% of the project expenditure is financed out of Commission funds collected from fishing license sales. All equipment, lands, and structures become the property of the state. All project workers are hired by the Commission and are state employees.

Obviously, the niche occupied by the state and Federal go-between is an all important one. Happily, that position in Florida is capably handled by Melvin T. Huish, a University of Illinois graduate, a research biologist for 14 years, and the Florida Coordinator since 1957. Huish has a double responsibility, one to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the other to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Included among his duties are the recognition of the need for specific restoration and management programs and practices, and the formulation of plans for the development of these programs and practices. Huish must then get an official commission OK from

Tallahassee. From there, the plan of the proposed project is relayed to the Fish and Wildlife area office in Atlanta for Federal approval. Huish then puts the approved plan into action, supervising personnel, and issuing monthly progress reports.

Florida is, on the one hand, blessed with 30,000 named lakes plus 5,000 unnamed lakes, and 166 rivers plus 17 first magnitude springs. On the other hand, Florida is faced with an exploding, recreation-minded population, and the state has become a prime target of those who would despoil such natural advantages by dredging, filling, draining, burning, polluting—all disguised as "progress."

Florida's natural abundance accentuates the problems. Man must create where man has destroyed. D-J funds are a necessity in trying to keep abreast of the pressures against sport fishing.

The need for a uniform fishing license is strengthened by the fact that more license buyers mean more D-J funds. And more D-J funds mean better fishing.

There are currently many D-J projects in the state. A few have been completed, others are still active. The

(Continued on Next Page)



Florida has long been waging a battle to keep fresh waters clear of noxious vegetation, especially the imported hyacinth. Although beautiful to the eye, the water hyacinth is a common enemy of both the fishing and boating fraternities.

Photo By
Jim Floyd

(Continued from Preceding Page)

following is a brief account of such projects, both completed and active.

Noxious Vegetation Control

The water hyacinths, *Eichornia crassipes* and *E. paniculata*, have long been enemies of Florida sportsmen. Unfortunately our climatic conditions are ideal for their rapid growth and up until a few years ago they flourished, clogging waterways and commercial intakes, interfering with fishing, swimming and boating, reducing fish populations by competing for space and nutrients, cutting down on open water for waterfowl, and acting as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Then D-J funds provided the bulk of the research money which led to a successful control technique, the use of 2,4-D, a hormone type chemical herbicide, applied by airboats and airplanes. Average cost of chemicals to treat an acre of hyacinths is \$3.00. After the research and techniques for control were developed by D-J, the program grew to such an extent it now far exceeds the entire annual D-J budget for Florida. The extra money involved comes from funds other than those provided for by the D-J program.

Lake Management

When a lake or river, vital to the economy and recreation of a community, develops a pattern of poor fishing, management methods are frequently applied to restore the lake to its former productivity and also to show the public how these management practices can be of direct benefit to the people in the commu-

nity. Bodies of water treated thus far are Lake Apopka, Merritts Mill Pond, Guano River, Newmans Lake, North Bay, Lake Trafford, Lake Parker, and Lake Hollingsworth. In most cases, sport fishing has definitely improved. D-J Funds have provided the money necessary to arrive at these management techniques.

Boat Ramp Construction

Water, water, everywhere, but frequently the angler can't get out on it because the shoreline is

To help preserve and improve fresh water fishing, fish management programs include techniques that eradicate undesirable fishes, enabling better growth and reproduction conditions for gamefish.

Photo By Bill Hansen



More than 100 boat launching ramps have been constructed by the Fisheries Division the past two years, through the aid of D-J funds. More are under-way. Special articles on all these programs will appear in future issues of Florida Wildlife.

Photo By
Wallace Hughes



privately owned. This D-J project attempts to stimulate individuals and communities to dedicate access shore lands for public use, then provides the launching ramps so that the sportsman can get out on the water.

These ramps are either simple in construction, with gravel slope, or are of the more complex bolt-together concrete type.

Controlled Seining Project

An attempt, several years ago, to harvest forage

Specialized research studies by trained technicians are never ending jobs. From these studies, Fisheries programs can be put into motion designed to bring better fishing for future Florida anglers.

Photo By Tom Wayman



fish from Lakes George, Okeechobee, Harris, Eustis, and Reedy, if it proved nothing else, proved that the public was not yet ready to accept this facet of fish management. The opposition was so great that the project was shelved. Results of the partial testing proved, however, that these lakes could be utilized more fully than that accomplished by sport fishing. Also, there was no proof that haul seining was helpful—or detrimental—to the sport fishing.

Fish Management Investigations

With seining techniques proving unpopular with the public and of questionable value in altering the fish population of a large body of water, D-J funds were used to develop better systems of population control. Usually, when there is a rough fish problem, gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) is the species which unbalances the lake. Luckily, this fish is easily affected by minute quantities of poison in the water. On this basis, biologists developed the use of a relatively inexpensive toxicant that can be applied in quantities that will only affect the gizzard shad. Lake Apopka, 31,000 acres big, was treated in a three-year program with outstanding results.

Such studies have allowed the Fish Management Division to develop a positive approach to the management of lakes in many critical areas of the state.

Lake and Stream Surveys

With D-J support, survey teams have been canvassing the state to provide an inventory of Florida waters. They sample the lake to determine the make-
(Continued on Next Page)



Photos By Wallace Hughes



The electrical shocker, at left, is used for special collection studies.

up and the number of fish, they gather information and draw maps, all as a part of this gigantic cataloguing. This information is of importance now and will give a valued comparison when future studies are made on the same lakes.

By the way, maps are available of the Apalachicola drainage system, the Choctawhatchee Watershed, the Yellow River Watershed, and of Southeast Florida. If interested write the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at Tallahassee. Eventually, maps of all areas in Florida will be available.

River Basin Fisheries Investigations

This D-J project evaluates the activities of state and federal water control agencies which may be detrimental to Florida's sport fishing. Suggestions are made to these agencies whenever it appears as though their plans may prove detrimental. Nine significant reports have been prepared to date.

Electrical Fish Control Studies

The development and testing of an electrical fish-shocking device was investigated through D-J funds. A workable design was produced, and while it still has merit for "special purpose" collections (tagging, restocking, brood-fish collecting), the use of a shocker was not considered generally practical as a tool for controlling rough fish.

Anadromous Fish Studies

Salt-water species which spawn in fresh water are of considerable interest to sport-fishermen in Florida. If you have thrilled to the antics of a St. John's river shad, or to the power of a striped bass from the Jim Woodruff Dam waters, you can understand the enthusiasm behind this project.

At present, sport fishing for the American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) on the St. John's River has developed to a high degree thanks to the efforts of a Central Florida newspaper. While it could compare favorably, the shad fishing in the St. Mary's River and the Apalachicola River drainage system has not yet been promoted.

Striped bass (*Roccus saxatilis*), while appearing to be in the southern extreme of their range in Florida, do occur in abundance in the Apalachicola drainage, and the sport-fishing for this prize fish is slowly developing.

St. John's River Appraisal

What is the value of haul-seine operation in fish management? For one, this D-J project has proved that it is an effective means of harvesting fish. In a 44-month period from Lake George, over 6-million pounds of fish were removed, with, by the way, no appreciable effect on the species involved.

Most important of the anadromous fish studies is that of the striped bass.

The seining also proved the effectiveness of seining as a tool for sampling all populations of fish, provided the fish are not smaller than the mesh. It was noted that changes in fish populations were directly tied in with water temperatures and water levels.

Fish Management Research

Fishery problems which display the possibility of solution are clumped into this D-J sponsored project. Research workers are jubilant over the recent acquisition of a phosphate pit area in Hillsborough county. With complete control over these pits, experimental work can be carried out without concern for public pressure.

Fish not native to North America (*tilapias*) are currently being stocked in various ratios to bass and bluegills to see how they fare. In addition, several combinations of native species are also being studied to see which offer the best sport fishing.

Cooperative Statistical Report

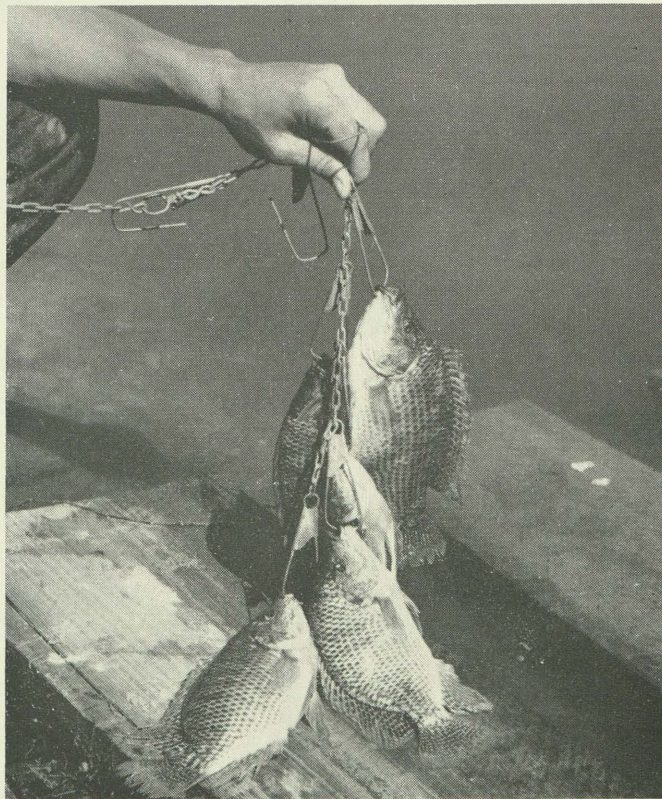
D-J Funds allow a contract with the Institute of Statistics at North Carolina State University for aid in designing research projects and to analyze results statistically.

All in all, we should be thankful for this federal support and to those individuals who have channeled these monies wisely. Now-a-days, a 3 to 1 return on an investment is beyond expectations.

The Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act has made it a reality. ●

Newest of Florida's fresh water game fish is the Tilapia, an import stocked successfully through trial testing in certain waters in the southern part of the state.

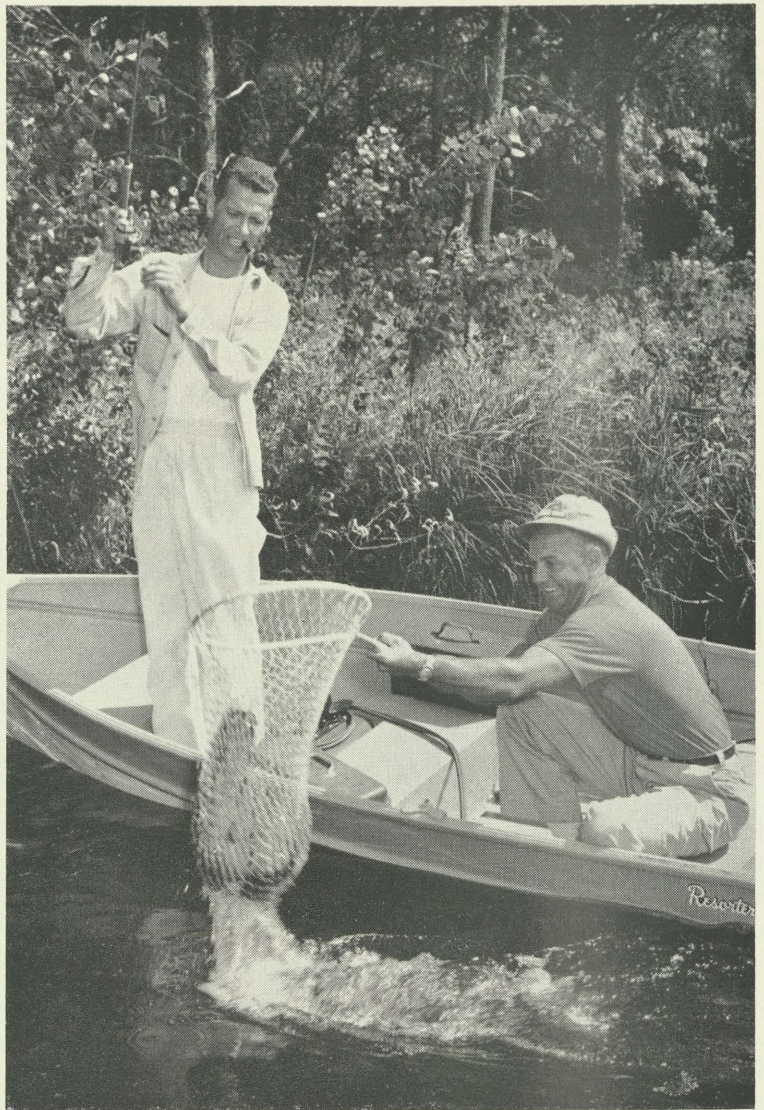
Photo By Bill Hansen



Sportsmen are the newest
targets for scientific
study. Results are to show
what kind of people
like hunting and fishing.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

By EDMUND McLAURIN



Sport fishing has universal appeal, scientists say. There is no need to explain why after one look at this picture.

ACCORDING TO A NATIONAL news release, psychologists at Ohio State University are trying to determine exactly what motivates people to hunt and fish, and at the same time assemble and classify other pertinent information.

Their theme song is "Getting To Know You," and they're doing it by mailing out long questionnaire forms to selected lists of license holders.

At the moment, they are particularly interested in knowing the nature and characteristics of hunters, what with the hunting season ahead. They frankly admit that they want to know exactly what kind of people buy and use licenses.

Obviously, the psychologists are making scientific approach to the

subject's many, and sometimes complicated, phases, but they could have saved an awful lot of postage had they first written me and some of my long time hunting buddies.

We could tell the Ohio State U. medics right off the bat that the vast majority of holders of hunting and fishing licenses are good sportsmen and conservationists. As a Florida state game commission official recently said, "Most license holders are responsible citizens, who also consider the purchase of a hunting or fishing license as a contribution towards conservation."

Among the millions of license hunters and fishermen in the United States there are, as might be expected, many different types of

personalities. License holders now include young ones, the middle-aged and oldsters of both sexes, the wealthy and relatively poor, the belligerent and the meek, true sportsmen and meat-hunters, the considerate, and inconsiderate, truth-lovers and chronic liars, the happy and the depressed, wise men and fools, charming personalities and irritating bores, dual personalities, the fearless and ever timid, and fifty or more other types of people! . . .

We laymen would also like to ask questions of the psychologists—especially how some of the unusual answers they are sure to get will be classified.

It is hoped the Ohio State U. psychologists will give justly due

credit to those hunters who are always considerate of companions and public property, who unselfishly share hunting privileges, lunches, shells and game kills, who maintain proper respect for all living things, and who otherwise are true sportsmen. We also hope they properly evaluate game hogs, poachers, careless gun handlers, deliberate wasters of crippled game, persons who stupidly call back and forth to each other in woods where other hunters are trying to effectively still-hunt, and those who habitually make excuses, criticise, complain and shirk camp chores.

What about those hunters who sensibly start getting ready for the next hunting season months in advance, compared to the majority group that waits until the night before Opening Day to assemble and test equipment? Do the two groups follow definitely opposite personality and dependability patterns, or what? Maybe the questionnaire being circulated will supply the answers.

One of the questions to be evaluated concerns the personal safety factor in hunting. "Is hunting a safe sport?" is the question. The final answer depends largely on selection avenue of approach to the problem.

If queried, hunters and state game commissions, nationwide, will confide that, as more millions of persons hunt annually, there is serious concern about the increasing number of reported hunting accidents.

Those who sell insurance, on the other hand, can point out that hunting is a relatively safe sport, and that it ranks way down the list in terms of accidents compared to football, baseball and other popular participant sports. However, they probably would fail to include the statistic that never less than 68,000 cubic feet of earth is removed every year to bury hunting accident victims! Obviously, hunting safety is a very personal thing among calculated insurance risks.

Most license holders are responsible individuals who consider the purchase of hunting licenses a contribution towards improved conservation practices.

Will hunters generally be classified as being more cruel to birds and animals than non-hunting persons—like slaughterhouse employees, fur breeders and backyard chicken head choppers—as is so often claimed on one hand by humane societies and overlooked on the other?

How will the Ohio psychologists classify the practical jokers among license holders?

Like the bird hunters who mixed natural-sounding blank "popper" 12 gauge shells (normally used in field trials and to accustom young dogs to gunfire) with a companion's birdshot shells, so that he made unaccounted for misses?

And the hunter who carefully set up a moth-eaten deer head, discarded by a taxidermist, and let camp companions hopefully blast away at it believing they had just spotted a buck in the brush?

What about the warped thinking of the landowner who permitted

dove hunters on his property the first day of a season, then that night deliberately made the area an illegal "baited field" by scattering feed corn at various spots, notifying Federal wildlife officers but not advising returning hunters?

A few hunters resort to all sorts of intrigue to outwit supervising wildlife personnel and the spirit and intent of governing game laws.

One Fall afternoon while hunting doves on a heavily hunted populated field, a Florida Wildlife Officer friend called my attention to a pile of dead doves under a tree. It seems some hunter among the fast-firing guns had killed far more than his legal limit. He had quickly dumped the excess when he spotted the officer approaching the field to check licenses. The fellow never did come back for the birds, although the two of us kept respectful distance vigil until sundown put an end to all activity.

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A courteous approach and consideration for the property of others can be the key to many presently "Closed To Hunting" farmlands.

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Another hunter killed a turkey out of season. To sneak it by the Wildlife Officers known to be on field duty, the elated, but now anxious hunter stuffed the big bird in the hood of his car, between radiator and grill. Unknown to him, however, the jolting of the car subsequently changed the bird's position until its long neck and head were dangling a good nine inches through the car's radiator drain hole!

One year in Florida there was notable activity among the wayward who elect to illegally hunt deer at night and use a flashlight to "shine their eyes." The area's resident Wildlife Officers moved in to do something about it, but the violators somehow got wind of their plans. The story is that they ingeniously fastened a flashlight on a goat and released it ahead of the officers, who could see the light bobbing in the woods but were unable to get close enough to make identification. They followed the light for hours before learning they had been tricked.

Then there was the guy who deviously informed another state's wildlife guardian that he intended to take undersize bass, but that he couldn't be caught with the evidence. To make a story short, the angler's stream activities thereafter were watched by the officer, using power-

ful binoculars. When he observed the fellow catch a number of small bass and put them on a stringer, the wildlife guardian closed in, but found no fish! . . . the fellow had been catching and stringing fish and shaking them off the stringer under water, as a deliberate joke.

Fair in their dealings with the public, the field Wildlife Officers also are a thinking lot. According to hunter-observer Herb Williams, one season the state's game guardians maintained a check-in and check-out station on a main artery to a popular hunting area. A sign "Check Station 1,000 Yards Ahead" warned approaching cars to stop. Also, about 500 yards inside the preserve there was a convenient side road. The wildlife protectors also set up a station on this route, but with approach unmarked by signs. . . . Lawful hunters traveling the main highway went straight ahead and stopped for the expected routine check. Over-limit and otherwise uneasy hunters ducked down the side road—to no avail!

What about women hunters and anglers?

Game Commission field personnel in our Southern states say that, besides getting lost, more women break the law (by not having required license) than men. I prefer to stay out of that discussion. . . .

Most holders of hunting licenses can be justly regarded as property-respecting persons. Responsibility afield seems to be an inherent quality; some possess it and some don't. Sportsman-landowner Aldo Leopold believes "The hunter's field conduct is a personal thing. Usually, he does not have an observant gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than onlookers."

An unfortunate type of license holder is the irresponsible, inconsiderate hunter who mistakenly believes that purchase of a hunting license entitles him to shoot up anything not specifically prohibited in the annually furnished list of game regulations.

Psychologist Charles M. Liddle feels that "A poorly informed person possessing a gun and ammunition, with little or no experience in the woods, will be disappointed after coming back out on the road and will want to shoot at something." In an effort to extend the useful life of his own rural mailbox, Dr. Liddle keeps a fresh standard rifle target tacked on a frame below the box—in the hope that gameless hunters who simply must yield to the urge to shoot *something* will use the pro-

vided target instead of continually riddling his mailbox. The ironic part is that occasionally an unappreciative shooter will ignore the passive plea, and shoot up both target and box! Dr. Liddle seems to have diagnosed the cause, but evidently, not an infallible cure.

Rural residents who have had their mailboxes shot up by hoodlum hunters are not apt to give cordial reception to true sportsmen who later respectfully request permission to hunt private land!

Likely to be grouped in the same irresponsible category by the psychologists are those hunters who shoot at glass insulators of telephone and power lines, and blast away at highway signs. Their thoughtless, destructive acts cause all sorts of communication troubles for telephone and power companies, and extra work for the highway departments.

However, it is unfair for landowners to regard hunters generally as hoodlums. The trouble is that some hunters are simply thoughtless. The result is that many unfairly suffer from the acts of an inconsiderate few.

Besides carelessly started forest fires, a primary enemy of wildlife is the illegal, out-of-season gunner. Despite the vigilance and wide travel of our wildlife officers, the problem continues to exist—especially on privately-owned, posted property where so-called “right of predator control” is an often abused privilege. Whether a stranger climbs a fence and poaches, or the landowner does it under some legal guise, it is still an act of poaching when game birds and animals are hunted for sport or meat during a closed season.

How will the psychologists classify poaching by a stranger on another’s land as well as contemporary subterfuge on the part of the landowner

himself? That analysis should make interesting reading!

If the Ohio State University psychologists want a specific example of fast thinking by a hunter, I’d like to cite the incident of the Florida hunter who heard shots in the brush and seconds later had a beautiful buck stumble and die almost at his feet. His subsequently applied sportsmanship can be questioned, but not his fast thinking. . . . “Who killed this DOE? he yelled repeatedly. When no one came forward to claim a supposedly illegal deer, the fellow fastened his tag to an antler and prepared to pack out a fine buck!

How should one evaluate the case of the veteran Ocala area deer hunter who has hunted some sixteen years, every possible day of each season, without so far downing a deer for keeps? He’s had close shots, long shots, standing, running—and for all I know, sitting—shots, but somehow he has always missed or otherwise lost his deer. (As in the past, I hope the guy gets his buck this coming season—but I won’t bet on it!)

The psychologists will probably merely chuckle about—not classify—the incident of the inexperienced hunter who spent half a day building a hunting blind *interlaced with poison ivy*.

And the superstition that exists among hunters? How will it be evaluated? . . . Many hunters are decidedly superstitious. Many believe, for example, you should never carry your gun on your left shoulder if you want good hunting. (I’m already jinxed there because, being a left shoulder shooter, I favor that style of gun carry!) Others warn, never count your bullets before you start a hunt; it bad luck. Members of a third group admonish you to keep your gun pointing at the ground as you sit and wait for game; otherwise, you will miss the shot when you do get a chance. These are some of the hunting hexes that comprise hunting superstition.

Among the good luck omens are dropping a cartridge while loading your rifle, hearing an owl hoot on the right side of the trail you’re
(Continued on Page 33)

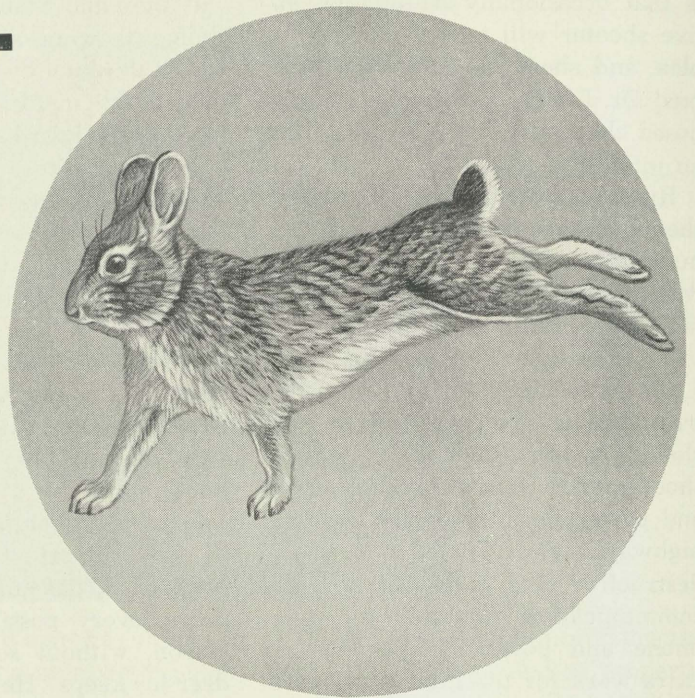
The successful hunter is one who usually starts planning well in advance; knows all about the type hunting he has scheduled, and makes every effort possible for SAFETY afield for himself, and others.



FACTS ABOUT FLORIDA RABBITS

By ROBERT C. GARRISON

Biologist, Game Management Division



THE RABBIT IS ONE OF America's favorite and most popular game animals, and rabbits of one type or another may be found throughout the United States. Few other wild animals have so endeared themselves to the human as has the rabbit. The rabbit is the subject of folk tales, nursery rhymes and is the object of much outdoor recreation, including sightseeing, nature studies and many hunting trips.

Rabbits are distinguished by their soft fur, long hind legs, long ears, and short tail. The larger species of rabbits are called "hares" or "jack rabbits"; the smaller ones, "cottontails" or just plain "rabbits." The fur is generally brownish or grayish above, and lighter or white below. Rabbits do not hibernate, and are active throughout the year. Generally timid and in-offensive in nature, the rabbit depends on its ability to "freeze" in one position so as to "hide from plain sight," or as a last resort, the rabbit depends on its speed and trickery in flight from capture.

What Is A Florida Rabbit?

There are three species of rabbits in Florida; the eastern cottontail, *Sylvilagus floridanus*; the marsh rabbit, *Sylvilagus palustris*; and the swamp rabbit, *Sylvilagus aquaticus*.

What About The Cottontail?

The cottontail is well known to everyone throughout most of the United States and is found in all parts of Florida. The cottontail is grayish-brown in color and carries the distinctive white "powder puff" tail

from which it takes its name. Female cottontails often breed after nine months of age, and may produce three litters of young in one year. After a gestation period of about 28 days, from four to six young are born. The young are weaned in less than three weeks.

What Is A Marsh Rabbit?

The marsh rabbit is covered with hair that is coarser and darker brown in color than the cottontail. It has a small inconspicuous tail that is a dingy white on the underside. This rabbit will often walk rather than hopping as most rabbits. As its name implies, the marsh rabbit is generally found in marsh or swamp lands. It is an accomplished swimmer and takes to the water readily.

What Is A Swamp Rabbit?

The swamp rabbit is restricted largely to the northern portions of Florida. It is quite similar to the marsh rabbit both in appearance and habits. The swamp rabbit is the largest of the rabbits in Florida with hair even coarser than that of the marsh rabbit. The swamp rabbit swims well and, as the marsh rabbit, it will often walk rather than hop.

Are Rabbits Game Animals?

Rabbits are classified as game animals and are under the jurisdiction of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

What Is The Hunting Season?

There is no closed hunting season and no bag limit

on rabbits in Florida. When rabbits are hunted during the open season for other game animals and birds, the hunter is required to possess a valid hunting license.

Why Is There No Season Or Bag Limit?

Rabbits in Florida reproduce so rapidly that under the present degree of hunting, restrictive measures are not now necessary.

Why The Low Hunting Pressure?

One of the reasons rabbits are not hunted to a greater extent is probably traditional. Throughout the history of Florida, other game, such as deer, turkey, quail and waterfowl, have usually been available to the hunter. The rabbit, because of his universal abundance, has often been ignored as being commonplace. This situation is rapidly changing, and today the rabbit

1. The Cottontail; has whitish feet, and distinct brownish-red patch on back of neck. The tail is large, cottony-white underneath. — 2. Marsh Rabbit; has small brown feet, a small tail, and is grayish-white underneath. — 3. Swamp Rabbit; has brownish-red feet, no distinct brownish-red on

is being rediscovered by many Florida hunters for what he truly is: an excellent small game animal capable of providing many hours of good sport and a tasty morsel for the table.

What About Rabbit Hunting?

One of the outstanding virtues of rabbit hunting is that "the price is right." Almost any method can be used: a .22-caliber rifle or pistol, a shotgun of almost any gauge or choke, a bow and arrow, or, in the hands of a skilled user, a sling shot. The rabbit may be stalked, still hunted, flushed, or hunted with dogs.

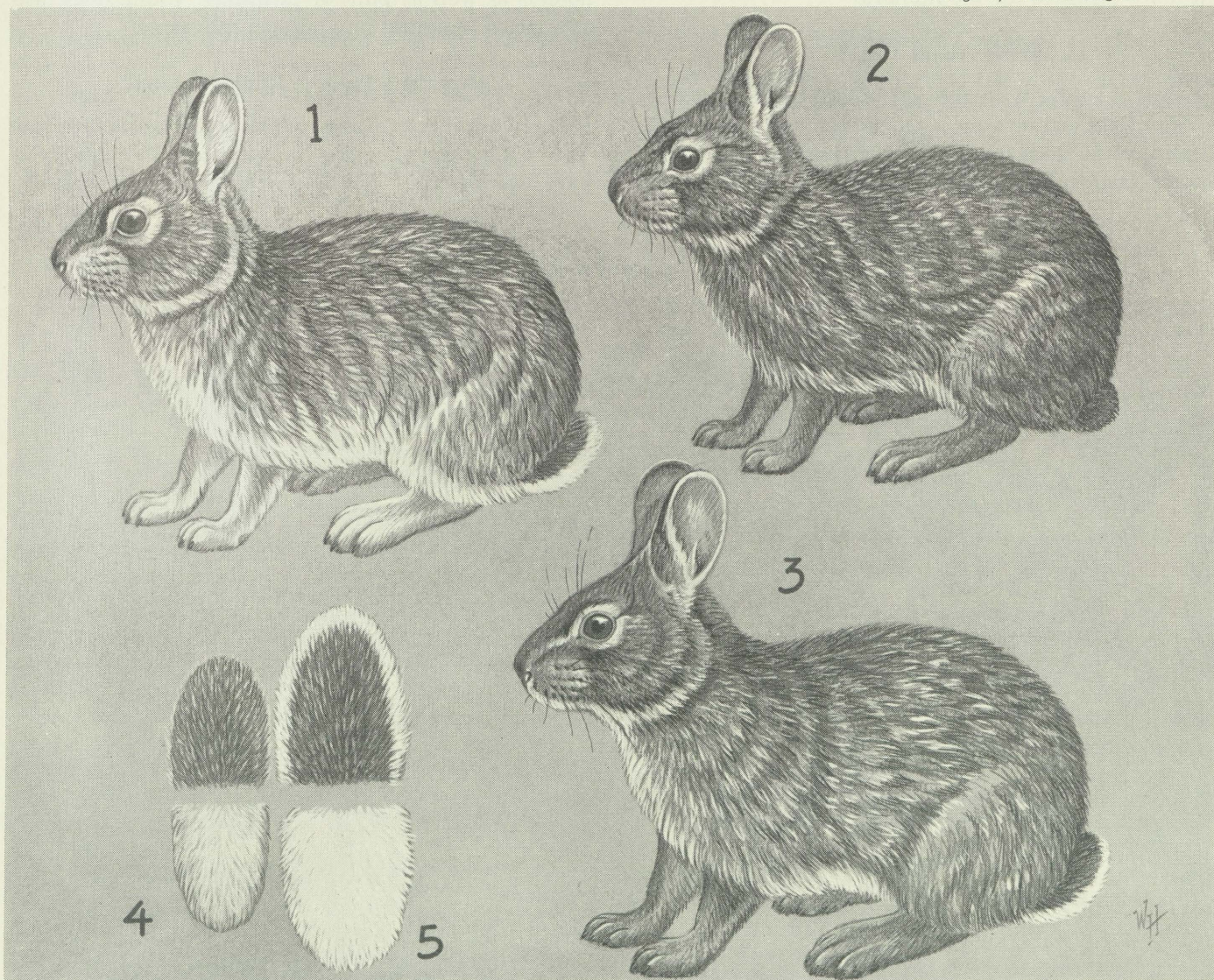
When Is The Best Time?

Early morning and late afternoon are usually the best time to hunt, if you do not employ a dog for
(Continued on Next Page)

back of the neck, tail is like the Cottontail. The Swamp Rabbit is of larger size, weighing up to six pounds. — 4. The tail of the Marsh Rabbit, showing top and underneath sides. — 5. The tail of the Cottontail, top and underneath.

The tail of the Swamp Rabbit is similar.

Drawings By Wallace Hughes



(Continued from Preceding Page)

rabbit hunting. If dogs are used, they will flush rabbits at any time during the day.

Where Is Best Place To Hunt?

It is not necessary to travel a long distance to reach good rabbit hunting grounds. Almost any field, pasture, grove, or patch of woodland will contain a few rabbits. If you still hunt or stalk the rabbit, the best hunting sites are areas which contain open grassy plots in which the rabbits feed. For still hunting or stalking a .22-caliber rifle or pistol or bow and arrow provides the maximum sport. In heavy brush or cover hunters may hunt as a team and conduct drives in which the rabbits are flushed before the hunters.

What Is The Best Method?

It is difficult to say which method of rabbit hunting is the best, as it depends to some extent upon the hunters. Both still hunting and stalking will produce rabbits for the hunter's gun, but in all possibility, the use of rabbit dogs will not only produce more rabbits but more pleasure for the hunters.

What About Dogs?

Rabbit hunting with the aid of dogs is considered as one of the nation's most popular hunting methods. Generally the dogs used for rabbit hunting are small hounds such as the beagle or basset hound; however,

almost any dog will chase rabbits with a minimum of training. It is necessary that the dog be capable of trailing a rabbit by scent rather than by sight as the rabbit is an artful dodger and will often lose the dogs.

How Do Rabbit Dogs Hunt?

A trained rabbit hound will search brush piles, tree tops and other likely rabbit cover in order to locate the rabbit. When a rabbit is located it will flush in front of and attempt to outrun or elude the dogs. The dogs trail or chase the rabbit and normally bark while in the process of the chase. The rabbit, under normal conditions, will return to the area in which it was flushed. The sound of the trailing hounds will allow the hunters to take positions along the possible route of travel and provide them with a shot at the passing rabbit. To many rabbit hunters, the sound of the dogs and the excitement of the chase is equally as important as the actual shooting of the rabbit.

Where Can I Obtain A Rabbit Dog?

Trained rabbit dogs, such as beagles and basset hounds as well as pups or untrained young dogs, are advertised in almost any outdoor magazine.

How Do I Train A Rabbit Hound?

There are many good books on training rabbit dogs. You might train your dog by hunting with others who have trained dogs. Training a rabbit hound is really

Hunting rabbits with dogs, like the Beagle, provides more game for the hunter, and offers exciting pleasure afield.

Drawings By Wallace Hughes



simple, as the natural instinct of the beagles and bassetts are to chase rabbits.

What Are The Best Shotgun Loads?

Number six shot is best in open country. Number 7½ or 8 shot is satisfactory for heavy cover where shooting is at close range. High velocity loads are not normally needed.

What Do Rabbits Eat?

Rabbits eat vegetable matter of many kinds, including the tender bark of young trees and shrubs.

What Is Good Rabbit Habitat?

The cottontail is normally found in uplands with open grassy areas and nearby dense thickets of brush or palmettos. The marsh rabbit and swamp rabbit prefer wetter situations and more cover. The proximity of cover is a basic requirement of all the rabbits of Florida.

What About Natural Enemies?

Rabbits have many natural enemies such as the fox, wildcat, stray house cats, hawks and owls. Automobiles take a great toll of rabbits along Florida's highways. The practice of planting grasses along the highways provides attractive areas to rabbits and results in many highway kills. This is especially true along new road construction.

Are Rabbits Good To Eat?

Yes. Any healthy rabbit in Florida is perfectly edible and usually quite tasty as rabbits live chiefly on grasses, berries and the tender sprouts and shoots.

How Are Rabbits Cooked?

Properly handled and dressed, rabbits require no soaking or parboiling. They can be used interchangeably in recipes for squirrel and chicken. Rabbits are good to eat; they are difficult to distinguish from squirrel when prepared in the same way. Rabbits should be cooked until well done. There are many good recipes in many cookbooks, and the meat may be roasted, broiled, barbecued, braised or stewed.

What About Rabbit Disease?

Tularemia is a disease that is sometimes carried by rabbits and may be transmitted to man; however, this same disease is also carried by many other species of animals including the deer, fox, cat, dog, squirrel, skunk, quail, hog, sheep, and opossum. Some persons are reluctant to hunt or eat rabbits because of the publicity that has been given the disease.

How Is Tularemia Transmitted?

Tularemia is a blood disease and is usually transmitted to man through breaks in the skin while skinning or dressing an infected animal. It may also be



The rabbit is a vegetarian, lives mainly on grasses, clover, berries, tender shoots, sprouts and bark of plants.

transmitted by the bites of some insect, such as flies and ticks, that have previously bitten an infected animal.

Is Tularemia Common?

The occurrence in Florida is low, and if a hunter will take a few simple precautions, there is no reason to fear the disease.

What Precautions?

Once thoroughly cooked, the meat of any rabbit or other animal is safe to eat even though it may have been infected with tularemia. The danger lies in the handling of the animal before cooking. The first rule is to take only healthy active rabbits. If a rabbit or other animal appears sluggish or reluctant to move, it is wise to leave it out of your bag. The same rule applies to rabbits or other animals having sores or lesions anywhere on their body. The second rule is to be cautious when handling rabbits or other animals if you have any cuts or abrasions on your skin. The use of rubber gloves while skinning and dressing rabbits is a wise precaution.

What Is The Conclusion?

The rabbit in Florida is plentiful and fully capable of providing many hours of outdoor recreation to Florida sportsmen. It is excellent as a game animal especially when hunted with rabbit hounds. The rabbit can apparently adapt with ease to the changing land use, and adjust to far more hunting pressure than it is presently being submitted to in Florida.

With the increase in the human population and reduction of wilderness areas for larger game, the rabbit may soon become recognized by more Florida hunters as a source of good game that is available to everyone. ●



This little 14-footer is featured in *Popular Mechanics*. It was built by Wimpy Steerman, in the bow, and features a disappearing front-seat back, fold-away steering wheel, carefully designed storage space, and lots of speed. In the picture, Steerman's fishing companions are Charles Nordman and Jack Orchard.

A FISHING BOAT IS 14 feet long, four feet wide and has a 10-horsepower outboard motor.

Don't be sensitive if yours doesn't fit that description but that's about average and the chances are you could get by pretty well with it. It probably isn't perfect for everywhere and I know a lawyer who once owned 12 different fishing boats at one time. He didn't think he was in the boat business but he liked to have the right craft for everything.

If you're shopping for a boat and are the typical boat-happy American, the chances are you figure yours will be used for fishing, camping, cruising, water skiing and racing. You probably don't know you are thinking of four or five different boats. You list fishing as your first objective but by the time you get your boat you'll be so busy boating you won't do much fishing. I guess that's all right, too.

My only reason for getting aboard are to fish or get from point A to point B. I know very little about boats and am likely to call the bow line a rope. I sometimes turn left or right and occasionally lean against the side instead of the gunwale. I have on occasion been caught in the front or back of a boat instead of the bow or the stern.

Despite this, I spend about every fourth day in a boat the year around,

Proper selection of a fishing boat should fit in with personal angling techniques.

JUST FISHING BOATS

By CHARLES WATERMAN

did something like four years in the navy and have owned a series of small fishing boats, beginning with a 12-footer in 1927.

Because I acquired these boats solely for fishing, I may be qualified to talk about small fishing boats, even though Boating Editor Don Cullimore of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* could lose me in about four seconds of discussion about technical boating.

The boats and gadgets I am talking of are for lake, river, creek and inshore fishing in relatively "small" waters. When we go into deep blue offshore we're in a different category.

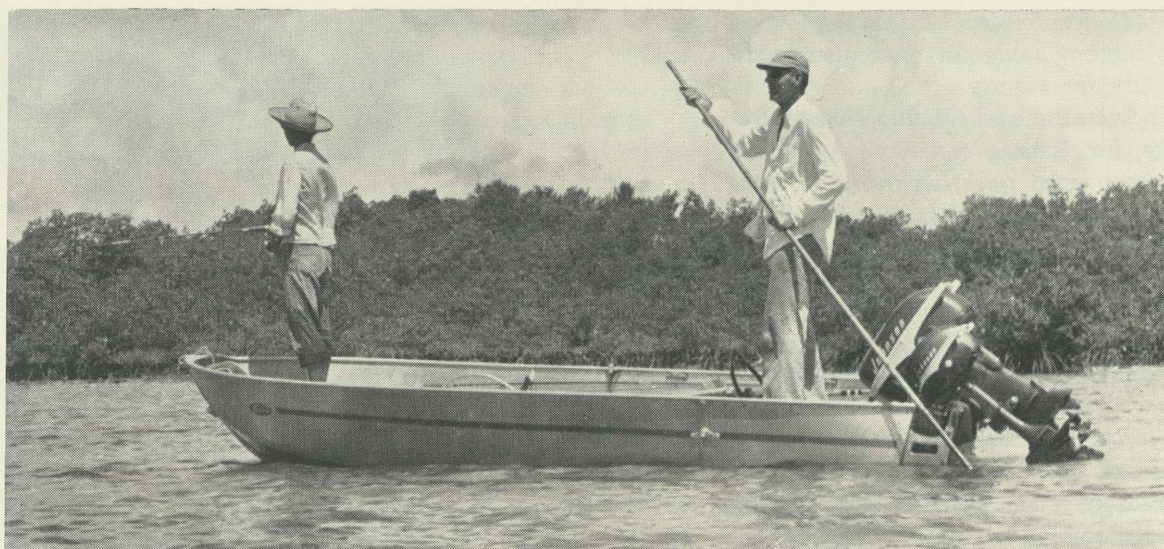
The aforementioned 14-footer with the 10-horse motor is not described accidentally. In addition to being

about average for fishing, it has some qualifications such as these:

Most 14-foot boats will take three passengers and plane with a fairly good speed using a 10-horse motor. A 14-foot boat is about the minimum length that will comfortably accommodate a caster in the bow, another in the stern and an oarsman in the middle. A 10-horse motor is about as heavy as the average fellow wants to carry around in his car in case he decides to rent a boat somewhere. A 14-foot boat is about as large as two men can manhandle in case they want to paint it, wash it or just take it off the trailer for some other reason.

A 14-foot boat is generally about as large as most fishermen want to

Ted Windhorst poles a 14-foot aluminum skiff on a bonefish flat off Key Largo. Wide boats are hard to pole. Note the two motors.



row. It is not too big to paddle. It is not too big to pole. With common sense, it is large enough to ride out a pretty good blow on anything but really big waters. It is big enough that you can stand up in it, stretch your legs, net a fish and trade positions with your buddies without disaster.

For most fishing situations it is too long, short, narrow, wide, light or heavy but it is a doggone good compromise.

I have used a 14-footer as a car-top and it was mighty bulky and heavy for that. I have also used one for all-day fishing trips in Florida swamps where you were cooped up in it with two other fellows from dawn to dark with no place to step out. It was pretty cramped but it served the purpose.

I have a hunch it is a pretty good basic outfit, built of wood aluminum or glass. The motor choice depends

on the use and I've run up to a 40-horse on long trips with heavy loads. For most use, that overpowering it.

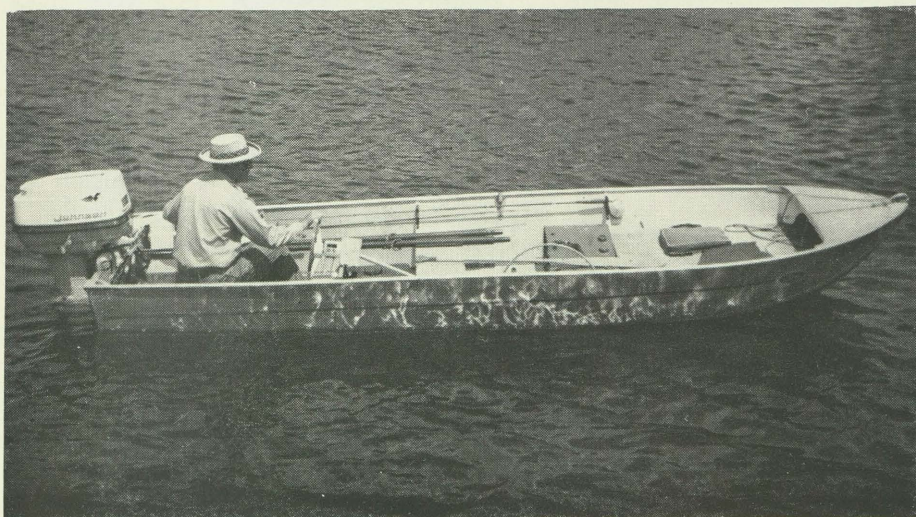
Most common fault of boats allegedly bought for fishing is lack of fishing space. Windshields, tops, forward decks, remote controls, batteries and multiple accessories for comfort and appearance are difficult to resist in the showroom and diffi-

cult to crawl over on a fishing trip. As fishing boats get larger, most of the extra room is taken up by things no fisherman would have considered a few years back. This brings about more and more 2-boat families—one for fishing and one for cruising—but few budgets are adjusted to such operations. We're going to deal only
(Continued on Next Page)



With an extended steering handle, the shallow water navigator can see what's up ahead. The operator is Chuck Schilling, well known Jensen Beach angler and former fishing editor of Florida Wildlife.

Photos By Charles Waterman



Sixteen feet long and only four feet wide at the stern, this aluminum boat is ideal for two casters with an oarsman in the center. Note homemade casting platform in the bow, rear mounted steering wheel, rod back, and long-haul gas tanks forward.

(Continued from Preceding Page)
with boats bought or built specifically for fishing.

Even the boat manufactured purely for fishing must meet certain appearance requirements if it is to sell. Even the fishermen (who won't admit it) may be pretty appearance conscious.

Manufacturers have been skittish ever since the public decided it had to have fins on its boats the same as on its cars. There was no explanation of why a boat had to look like a car but perhaps it was the same reason a car had to look like an airplane.

In Florida a large percentage of casters stand up to fish. Usually it is more restful if conditions permit. Probably the one most practical addition to a fishing boat is a level place for a caster to stand. Although some models are built with a casting deck in the bow, others come to a V in the bottom at the bow, leading to a future generation of fishermen with V-shaped feet.

I use a skiff with no built-in platform up there so I have a plain, plywood piece cut to fit and cover the space between the two front seats. I put a rubber matting over that making it silent and easy to stand on. I fly fish a lot so the rubber mat is a big help to coiled fly line that I often get under my feet. Beneath the plywood is storage space. I know of a dozen fishermen with similar arrangements. Jack Gowdy has piano hinges on his so it can be opened up with little effort. In effect, such a gadget doubles storage space in addition to affording a place to stand.

Generally, decked-over bows are pure poison to fishing efficiency but there are exceptions. After a few years I finally figured that the front 20 inches of a skiff is not used for anything except storing the anchor and my fly line was often tangled in it. So the boat I have now has a small, decked-over area in the bow at gunwale height and there's some useful storage space under it. It doesn't get in the way of the fisherman at all and you can keep things dry. The people who built my boat

An old favorite of Dr. H. R. Wilber, standing, this little square-ended aluminum "skid boat" is no longer made. Like many anglers, Wilber employs two motors — one for traveling and a small spare for maneuvering and as break-down insurance.



said the deck I ordered was a freak size—more than just a bow cap and less than a real deck.

With one boat I use I have pinned rowlocks (I used to call them *oarlocks* but a boating editor told me that was the wrong word). That is, the oars are pinned permanently to the "horns" that hold the oars. You can let go of these oars and they stay right there ready for use but they are not very good for really serious oar travel or for use with big boats. I use a bigger boat with the oars loose in the horns, awkward for inexperienced oarsmen but the real thing for someone who really wants to go somewhere. Most of my rowing is simply with the wind or current while someone casts. I face forward in the boat unless I'm really in a hurry and I seldom am.

A boating editor once told me it is not rowing at all if you face forward. That, he said, is "pushing." (It was not Florida Wildlife's Don Cullimore who said it. He is very tolerant of me).

A paddle is useful if you know how to use it although I don't feel it often takes the place of oars on good-sized boats. Some paddlers sit in the bow of the skiff and take the boat backward. Some fishermen sit in the bow and move bow-first,

usually fishing as they go. I've seen some good fishermen doing that and they could get by with a small paddle operated with one hand. If you paddle from the stern, get a real paddle, not one of those pancake turner things used by owners of 100-horsepower speedboats.

Poling is an often neglected method that works like a charm in shallow water. For a place like the Keys bonefish flats or for shallow marsh, a pole is hard to beat. Fourteen feet is about the right length and the one I use is round and a little bigger than an inch in diameter. I have tried 1-inch pushpoles but they break easily. Some kind of a foot on the business end is a help and a pole is at its best when the water is less than three feet deep.

A little electric motor is good when you're moving about fishing. It's about as silent as propulsion can be. I don't think it disturbs fish.

However, the advertising people who say that "it has been scientifically proven gasoline outboard motors do not disturb fish" are wrong in a few thousand cases. It is true you can troll with a short line and catch fish. It is true that fish don't display much fear when they've become used to motors but

the blanket statement is full of holes.

I will cite an instance.

Let me take one of those scientific provers down to Key Largo and we will pole out on a nice bonfish flat. At a distance of about 50 yards we will sight a couple of big, tailing bonefish, unaware that there are visitors anywhere in the vicinity.

Then, at my signal, the scientific prover will start a nice, big outboard motor. Then, if he will tell me what the heck became of the bonfish, I will ask them if they are disturbed. If we find the bonefish and they insist they were not disturbed I will then take him to the Tomoka River north of Daytona Beach and we will try it on tarpon and then to a nice, weedy creek I know of and see how the bass like it. But let's not get me started on that again.

I have always advocated two outboard motors on any boat that goes more than five miles from the dock. Perhaps the ideal setup is a big "traveling" motor with a small spare mounted beside it on the transom or on a bracket. The spare is used for trolling, crossing shallow areas and for emergency "get home" in case of breakdown. On the transom, it is out of the way. I think this combination is superior to dual in-

stallations of motors the same size as far as reliability is concerned for collision with an underwater object could lay up two motors at once.

I have no objection to dual installations for more power if you need that much. I simply think that one spare should be out of the water when traveling in real back country.

Running a medium-size (up to 30 horsepower) motor by hand will save some space in the boat. Remote controls and steering wheel take up a lot of room. I've come to the compromise of a steering wheel at the stern and I shift and adjust the throttle by hand. This is on motors up to and including 50 horsepower. Some of the bigger engines can't be bought with steering handles and throttles other than remote control.

In the Keys it is common to steer with a long throttle handle so the operator can stand up and find channels in the clear water. The only disadvantage of this comes when you make a very short turn and the long handle gets in the way.

I like a rear location because it keeps you next to the engine where you can unhook it and run it without the steering wheel in case of narrow creeks; because it has you back where most boats like the weight; because you can see what

is going on in the rest of the boat, and because you are where you don't get the pounding in rough water.

For storage, I like the business of having dry compartments under seats. If you make long trips, extra gasoline tanks are a problem of stowage but, unless you know just how your load is going to be distributed every time, the built-in fiberglass or metal tank can sometimes be a nuisance in trimming the boat.

You need something to hold the rods when not in use. I'm using some little rubber gadgets to suspend them along the sides of the boat. Mine are homemade but several manufacturers are producing them and they're worth the money. A friend of mine kidded me about those gadgets and the same day he stepped on his own rod in his own boat.

Also in the gadget classification is a rubber anchor I've found quite satisfactory, noiseless in the boat and capable of being pulled loose when snagged in rocks. It's not intended for holding big boats in high winds but it's great for most fishing conditions.

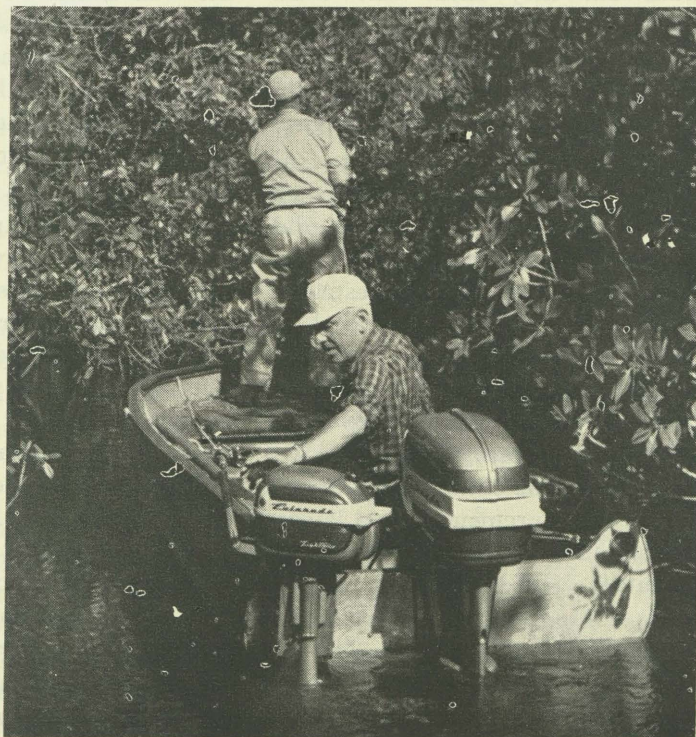
Hull design depends on what kind of fishing you're going to do, of course, but other things being equal, extra length is a big help. Although I've used the "average" 14-footer a lot, I'm now sold on a 16-foot aluminum boat that's only 48 inches wide at the stern. It's easy to row and will take motors up to 30 horsepower with a light load and a little more when heavy laden. Even a sidewinder in the bow in no great hazard in that much boat.

Now this boat is satisfactory for most fresh water endeavor but it is no great shakes on the bounding main due to relatively low sides and not much displacement. Being a bit narrow at the stern, it rides with the bow a little high. The full-width bottom is carried pretty much to the bow, giving needed support to someone fishing up there on the casting platform.

Incidentally, the traditionally pointed bow is seldom of any use on
(Continued on Page 33)

Photos By
Charles Waterman

A molded plywood fishing boat built by Bob Budd of Jeffersonville, Ind. The operator is Bob Kemp, also of Jeffersonville, while Bud casts into a narrow creek. The little 3-horse motor is kept running while fishing proceeds.





By JIM FLOYD

DOGS Hunting - Trials - Training

Raccoon Hunters Seek Recognition.

Rules For Off-Season Dog Training.

THE PANHANDLE SPORTSMEN Club, a 'coon hunting organization in North Florida, recently submitted a resolution to the Game and Fresh Water Fish commission. This, in itself, is not too unusual as many sportsmen clubs and organizations present petitions and resolutions with reference to the hunting seasons and regulations as established. However, the contents of this particular resolution was unusual and will surely be of interest to the hound dog men of Florida.

The resolution stated many things, but in essence it would be boiled down to a plea for recognition of the sport of night 'coon hunting. This resolution was an endeavor on the part of an organized group of 'coon hunters to gain proper and long past due recognition for their chosen sport. This resolution was a plea that the sport of 'coon hunting be lifted from its often considered status of meat hunting to the category of a recognized sport and popular outdoor recreation.

The resolution was not a selfish one. It requested, among other things, that the raccoon be placed on the list of game animals, and that a season, depending on the biological needs of the animal, be established. That hunters be required to purchase hunting licenses in order to hunt raccoons.

In essence, it requested that the 'coon hunters of Florida be considered as sportsmen rather than meat hunters, and that they be recognized as men who are willing to take a stand in support of their chosen sport, "coon hunting," and their prized possession the tree hound.

Who is to say that this resolution, presented by one group of coon hunters, may not be more or less a

growing trend among the hunters, sportsmen and dog owners in a progressive state. There is no getting around the fact that hunting conditions in Florida have changed over the past decade and in all possibility will continue to change even more.

Areas that once supported hardwood hammocks and populations of squirrel, raccoons and opossums have been turned into pine tree plantations. Areas that once supported quail cover and a covey or two of bobwhites are now housing developments. Forests that supported deer have been turned into super highways and instead of a white tail flashing it is the gleam of automobile chrome that meets the eye. Wetlands that harbored the alligator, the otter and waterfowl now grow tomatoes or other products.

With the advance of civilization, sportsmen must not only take a stand to support a conservation program but they must also cease hiding under the brush, come out and enter the give and take scrap, if they will continue to enjoy the cry of the hound on a frosty night.

No group can continue to sail along with the times and enjoy their outdoor sport as grandfather did, for these are not the days of grandfather. What was once unrestricted hunting lands are now visited by the multitudes, with each individual or group seeking to be recognized. Unless a group is willing to enter the battle for recognition they will be on the losing end of the stick and will soon only remember and lament the fact that they were too late with too little.

This organized group of 'coon hunters are willing to enter the battle and are willing to give up a heretofore year round privilege of

coon hunting in order that they might become recognized on the same level with other sportsmen. They seek a program on which the raccoon will be considered on an equal level with deer, quail, squirrel, duck and other wildlife. This was not an easy chore for these hound dog men, and they must be commended for their action.

A hound dog man may in many respects be likened unto the hounds he owns. Anyone that knows one whit about hounds will attest to the fact that the average hound is somewhat of an independent individual. Once in the woods the average hound hunts for the sheer joy of the chase and not because it is expected of him. He cares little for the conditions or circumstances of the balance of the dog population. He hasn't received a whole lot of obedience training and pretty well hunts as he wants to. He depends a great deal upon the generations of hounds before him to tell him when the trail is hot or cold, and which way the game has gone. He cares not that the going is rough, the weather dry, or that it is time to quit and go home. He lives, and oftentimes dies, for the thrill of the chase.

The hound dog man in the same respect did not heretofore care what the established season of other game provided for. He cared little for the company of those who did not appreciate the thrill of the chase or the music of the hounds. He made no concentrated effort to convert those who did not understand his ways or love for the hound or merits of his sport. He wanted only to be left alone to enjoy his sport. The hound dog man is generally as independent as the hounds he owns.

On the basis of the resolution presented at the hunting regulation

meeting it appears that the hound dog man may lose a portion of his independence in order to protect his chosen sport in the face of advancing civilization. It may well be that this is a handwriting on the wall.

We can only hope that this handwriting does not include the dog itself. We can hope that the spirit that made the hound what it is today will continue to survive in spite of civilization. We can hope that the sound of the hounds that chase the grey fox over the ridges will continue to echo the sounds of the hounds that George Washington listened to on a moonlight night in Virginia. That the black and tan barking tree will create the same sound and thrill that emitted from the hound that chased the bear up the tree that Daniel Boone killed.

Retriever Field Trial Dates Announced

The North Florida Amateur Retriever Club announces the following retriever field trial schedule. November 10-11, January 12-13, February 16-17-18 and April 7-8. All trials are scheduled for the Tallahassee area and open to any breed of recognized retriever. Retriever owners and enthusiasts may obtain entry forms and additional information by writing the NFARC, P. O. Box 2442, Tallahassee, Florida.

Training Time

This is the time of year when days grow shorter and night seems to arrive a bit too soon, evenings turn into one-blanket nights and insects sound off with more volume at sunset. This is the time of year when a man's blood flows a bit faster. It is the time of year to start thinking about the fast approaching hunting season.

When dog men think of the coming hunting season they are apt to add more rations to the evening meal of their hunting dogs, and start to wonder if the old dogs are in condition, or if the young dog has received enough training. Men who have been good husbands and



Retrievers used in dove hunting season, prior to opening of regular quail hunting season, must be kept leashed except when actually retrieving doves.

fathers throughout the summer will dodge the lawn mowing on the week-end and slip out of the house quietly during the early hours of morning to spend some time with their dogs. It is training time if the dogs are to be ready for the sound of the first gun of the season.

For the information of hunters who own hunting dogs, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission provides certain regulations that are concerned with this dog training period. To help hunters and dog trainers to observe these regulations, which pertain to dogs and the use of dogs, such regulations are produced here for their benefit.



"Sporty there helped Chester get his limit today!"

Dogs may be used for the taking of game mammals and game birds other than turkeys unless otherwise prohibited.

Retrievers used in dove hunting during the closed season for quail, must be kept on leash except when actually retrieving doves.

No person owning or having the care of any hunting dog shall knowingly or negligently permit such dog to trail, pursue, or otherwise molest game during the closed season except as herein provided.

Bird dogs may be trained during the closed season for taking quail with the aid of a pistol firing a blank or solid ball. The carrying or use of a shotgun or rifle while training bird dogs is prohibited.

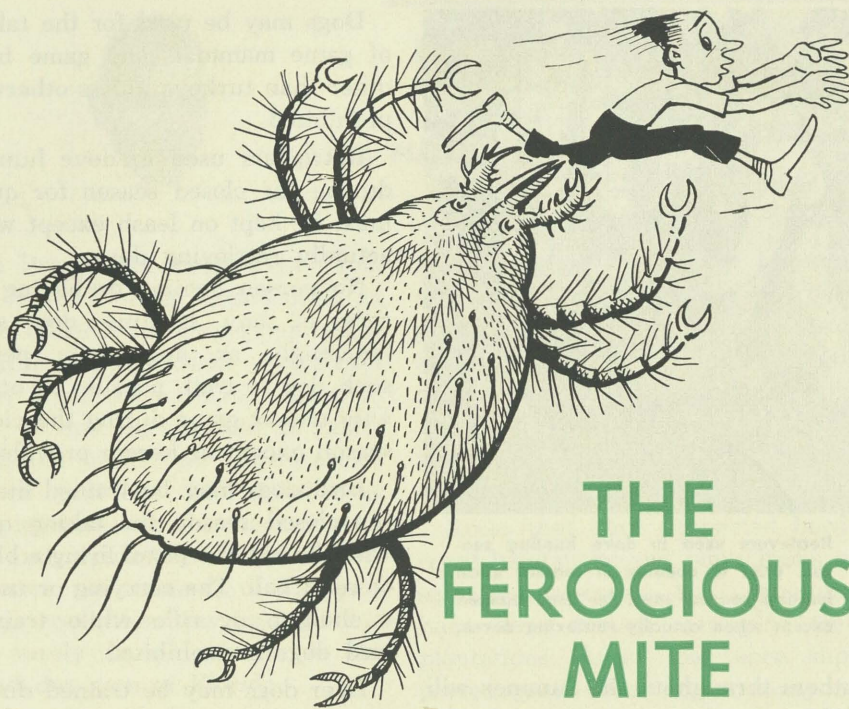
Deer dogs may be trained during the closed season for taking deer when such dogs are constantly attached to a leash or rope in the hands of the trainer. The carrying or use of any firearm while training deer dogs is prohibited.

An association organized for the protection of game may run field trials for dogs at any time after first obtaining written permission from the Director.

No type of hound, including foxhound, or dog of any type that can reasonably be considered to be a dog usable for running deer, will be permitted to run free in the Ocala National Forest except during the hunting season set for the Ocala Wildlife Management Area.

In any refuge where taking of wildlife is prohibited, no person shall be in possession of a gun, dog, trap or other device for taking wildlife.

In any wildlife management area where hunting is permitted no dogs will be allowed on any part of such area except during the hunting season for the particular areas, except under permit issued by an authorized representative of the Commission. Dogs must have a collar with name and address of owner attached when used during open season on any wildlife management area. ●



THE FEROCIOUS MITE

By MASON WOOLFORD

MY SUBJECT, WHILE NOT classified as a game animal, is nevertheless well qualified for serious consideration as an important member of Florida's vast array of wild life. For I'm sure nothing makes an outdoorsman quite as wild as half a dozen chigger bites.

What's your favorite remedy for the intolerable itch of chigger lumps? No, don't tell me. I'm quite sure I've already tried it. Some folks say rub the bite with soap. Others recommend a dab of nail polish. Then there are the adherents to the use of merthiolate, iodine, camphor, ammonia, this and that and the other thing. I've tried them all, and the darn lumps still wake up at the most inopportune moments and itch like fire in places beyond my reach in polite society.

What are these unspeakable, invisible, ubiquitous, and otherwise opprobriously characterized sparks of fire from the underworld that we call chiggers, for want of a better name?

I had thought the chigger, or red bug, was a kind of tick, like those little bugs that attach themselves to dogs and swell up to the size of grapes. I thought they bored into the human rind and set up housekeeping in there out of reach.

Being a great hand to ask questions, and to go to the real top for information, I hiked me to the public library, where the kind lady in charge led me to a couple of pamphlets put out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Here's the straight dope on chiggers.

"Chiggers, or red bugs," says the authority, "are among the most annoying pests of man found in this country." Even worse, sez I, than the fellow who gets your ear and pours out his troubles for hours on end.

The chigger is actually the young phase of what they call a "mite." Might say it's a mighty mite. Seems the adult mite doesn't bother people. These critters are so small you can't see 'em, being only 1/150 of an inch in diameter.

Contrary to popular belief, the chigger does not burrow beneath the surface of the human hide. No, sir, this nasty little bugger gets a grip on the skin, preferably at the base of a tiny hair, by taking a good hearty bite. Having obtained a hold, it squirts a fluid into the living tissue. This potent juice immediately dissolves the surrounding tissue and so permits the bug to suck up the liquified result.

Now get this. The pamphlet says "Before settling down to feed, the chigger scurries around for a suitable location. The preferred spots are those parts of the human anatomy where clothing fits tightly, or where the flesh is thin, tender or wrinkled." So now we know. But nobody can explain how they manage to get up under a tight belt (or a still tighter girdle).

"The fluid injected into the skin," continues the expert, "causes reddish welts to appear." He can say that again. First time I got bit I thought I had a severe case of hives. The professor also says some folks seem to develop an immunity to the bites. Not me, brother!

Now this is rather interesting. "The chigger, attached in a pore or at the base of a hair may be so enveloped in swollen skin that it appears to be burrowing into the skin. This fact sometimes leads the victim to believe, mistakenly, that chiggers embed themselves in the skin, or that the welts contain chiggers."

So it appears that the chigger has already left the area while the itchy lump is still functioning in a very itchy manner. And therefore any effort to "kill the bug" with nail polish or other applications is like locking the door after the horse has flown.

One bright spot in this sad story is that "Fortunately chiggers are not known to transmit disease." Small favors thankfully received!

And now for the sad news. "The fluid injected by the chigger causes the itching. No practical way to remove it has been found, and no treatment is known that will give permanent relief from the itching."

And so, if you must go into the brush, spray your shoes, pants, and other clothing likely to pick up these characters, with some good repellent. And afterwards, if you suspect you may have picked up some chiggers, take a good bath with lots of soap.

So it would seem that prevention is the only remedy.

Oh well, happy scratching! ●

WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL



Youth League Conference
At Daytona Beach Plaza

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

WE ARE HAPPY to announce that this year's 1962 annual encampment at Lake Eaton has been the most successful in eleven years of operation.

All on the staff wish to extend sincere thanks for your interest in our camp and hope that the youngsters gained some knowledge of the great outdoors with all its beauty. We hope, too, that some of our talks about conservation will remain with them.

The tremendous response from so many of you in selecting our camp for your boy and/or girl was overwhelming. It was regrettable, however, that we could not take care of all reservations for camp. Plans already call for extending our camping season another two weeks for next year.

Thanks again for your support and cooperation.

Youth Conservation Program

The eleventh annual conference of the Youth Conservation Club League was celebrated this year at the Daytona Beach Plaza.

In session also was the Adult Advisory Council to the Youth Conservation Program of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The newly organized council now in its second year met also in joint session with the League's Board of Directors.

Both organizations elected their officers for 1962-'63.

Bob Crowder was elected as president of the Youth Conservation League; Bill Dunnaway, vice president; Susan Street, secretary; Ralph Coffman, treasurer; David Jackson, Sergeant-at-arms; Jan Lucyks, Ruthe McElvey, Jack Samack, Geoff Cliett, as directors.

Site for the 1963 convention will be at Clearwater at the Fort Harrison Hotel, June 27, 28 & 29. Mid-

conference for the League will be held at West Palm Beach, November 9, 10 & 11.

The Adult Advisory Council will meet at the same time as the Youth Conservation Club League.

Officers for the Adult Council are: Mrs. Ramon Wheeler, chairman; Howard Leckner, vice chairman; Bob Routa, secretary and treasurer. During the general session a most important program for the youthful conservationists was finalized, a new certification form was adopted for ranks; a revaluation of the point system to be used for the achievements of ranks was also approved. A new booklet will be printed soon titled, "The Youth Conservation Program," sponsored by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

In other official business the assembly voted to have their Tag Day held on the last day of the Youth Conservation Week. A request to A. D. Aldrich asking Governor Bry-

ant to proclaim the week of September 16-22 as Youth Conservation Week was approved by the assembly.

The League resolved to use a theme for each year's conference. The year 1962-'63 will have as its theme, "Coordination for Progress." The awards committee comprising members of the AAC and the League's Board of Directors announced the following winners: For award of achievement for Junior Conservationist in the state, a tie between Frank Mustin and Bill Dunnaway of Ocala and Hialeah respectively. Award for Outstanding Junior Club work in conservation activities (tie) was Stuart Junior Conservation Club for boys and the Palm Beach County Girls Junior Conservation Club of West Palm Beach. For outstanding services rendered to both local clubs and the state a tie between Mrs. Ramon Wheeler and Mrs. W. S. Miller, was awarded.

During the assembly considerable discussion was given to the Camporee held this year at the Youth Conservation Camp during the month of March. Results were so satisfactory another is contemplated next year (1963). At present, the date has not been set. More information will follow.

Other official business included changing date for annual per capita fee. All dues to be paid by May 31 of each year preceding June election of officers.

Per capita dues to be raised to \$.50 per person, effective January 1, 1963. A special fund was created to help aid clubs to attend conference, \$100.00 was allocated. Amounts borrowed to be paid to the League

(Continued on Next Page)



Ronald Reich, left, from Clearwater, and Ralph Timmerman, of Stuart, try their hand at horseshoe pitching during summer youth camp session, Lake Eaton.

(Continued from Preceding Page)
treasury within six months following the annual convention.

A brochure explaining the operation and goals of the League was recommended. Possible distribution date will be this fall.

Remember if you are a new mem-

ber now you can receive 5,000 points to start your interest and career in conservation. These earned 5,000 points after completing some of the fundamental requirements will boast you along.

While we are on the subject of points, the League sanctioned 500

points for each Camporee attended; 500 points for serving on a committee, and 1,000 points if appointed chairman of the activity.

Further recommendation will be received at a later date on earned points for field trips during Camporee. ●

CLUBS & CONSERVATION

(Continued from Page 5)

16. Urges the adoption of a general fishing license for Florida's fresh waters. (As opposed to present licensing which permits cane pole fishing without license).

17. Urges the establishment of designated black bass breeding grounds in the St. Johns River and that the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission take any action deemed necessary to protect such areas from damaging activities.

18. Reiterates stand favoring retention of all land at the south end of Anna Maria Island.

19. Opposes west coast waterway through Myakka River.

20. Proposes suitable courses on natural resource management in public schools.

21. Proposes commercial fishing courses in coastal schools.

22. Proposes establishment of a St. Lucie Seashore Park.

23. Advocates a salt water sports fishing license.

24. Advocates the designation of "pure air" as part of the Izaak Walton League pledge.

Shark Warnings

Conservation publications have been warning outdoorsmen about the hazard of sharks.

Thirty unprovoked attacks on humans were reported throughout the world during 1961. Six persons lost their lives and 31 persons were injured. Although African and Australian waters were the scenes of most of the attacks, there were three attacks in Florida waters, one off South Carolina, one off California and one off Oahu, Hawaii.

According to the shark research

panel of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, at least 17 species of sharks made the attacks on fishermen, swimmers or boats. There were four attacks on boats in which no one was injured.

The panel provides a clearing house for shark information and studies chemical and physical repellants with appraisals of measures and repellants in use. Floridians on the panel include Dr. Eugenie Clark of the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory, Placida, and F. H. Wood, Jr., Marineland Research Laboratory, St. Augustine.

"Wetlands For Wildlife"

A recently organized group called "Wetlands For Wildlife" is pushing a citizen effort to buy threatened U. S. wetlands and deed those marshes, sloughs and potholes over to state and federal conservation agencies. From a beginning in Milwaukee, the group wants to acquire state and local chapters. The president is Ben Boalt of Milwaukee. Memberships are to be sold for \$3 each and a current \$3 duck stamp will be accepted in lieu of cash. The organization is planned as an aid to Ducks Unlimited and will concentrate on threatened wetlands within the continental limits.

New Magazine

A new magazine in the conservation field will be introduced soon by the National Wildlife Federation. Called *National Wildlife*, it will be sent to associate members of the organization and will feature articles and illustrations of interest to outdoorsmen. Being "sold" with the magazine is a discount program on natural history and travel books, a

free "art print of the year," and use of the Federation's library and research facilities.

Corkscrew Swamp Saved

After three inches of rain fell in mid-June on the Corkscrew Swamp preserve of the National Audubon Society, President Carl W. Buchheister issued a press release thanking those who had helped in the fight to save the swamp from fire. Both state and national agencies had participated in the long battle with drought and flames. Most of the central forest of virgin bald cypress was saved. Some of the trees have been growing for more than 700 years. The preserve is located west of Immokalee.

Audubon Membership

A new membership plan has been announced by the National and Florida Audubon Societies and will be tried for an 18-month period. For a regular membership fee of \$10, an individual may become a joint member of the national and state societies. A plan for the division and coordination of activities and responsibilities in Florida has been agreed on.

Protect Crows & Buzzards?

In a statement regarding the careless use of "gift guns" by youngsters, Kenneth D. Morrison, director of the Mountain Lake Sanctuary and president of the Ridge Audubon Society at Lake Wales, pointed out the number of laws probably violated by any juvenile who shoots at a songbird. He mentioned that the only birds not protected by law in Florida are the vulture, crow and starling and added he felt the vulture should be added to the protected list. ●

JUST FISHING BOATS

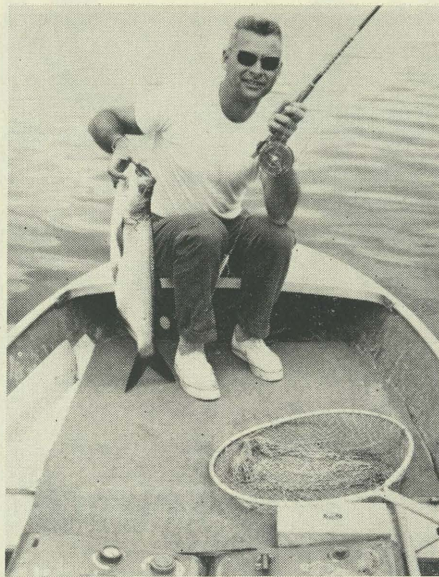
(Continued from Page 27)

a planing boat as it isn't in the water anyway. A square-ended "john boat" type is just as good most of the time and has more room for its length. Personally, I want some kind of a point on the bow because I fool around a lot in the Everglades creeks and need something to split the brush even if on the blunt side.

Some remarkable bottoms introduced recently on outboard boats have added greatly to riding qualities on rough water. Most frequently cited is the Boston Whaler, which comes in two sizes of fiberglass, the larger of the two being around 16 feet. I must confess it gives the softest ride of any outboard I've ever used and there's plenty of room in it for fishing operations although I prefer it without the bridge that is standard equipment. It is a lot of boat to row and somewhat bulky in narrow areas. When not planing, it draws a bit more water than conventional hulls. It is a wonderful deep water boat for medium to big motors.

The Whaler has a broad bow and isn't good for pushing through mangrove creeks. However, I realize that not one in several thousand fishermen will use a boat for that and I may be out of line in mentioning it. There is a smaller model less than 14 feet long built on the same lines as the 16-footer. It's a good boat too.

Catamarans are exceedingly popular as fast, soft-riding pleasure boats.



A rubber-covered casting platform is a help to Buddy Nordmann. Fly line can be coiled on it without damage. Nordmann is a radio commentator on outdoor subjects.

Their value in many kinds of angling is questionable although they're fine for drift fishing or trolling.

I've often had a fellow look at one of my boats carrying a good-sized motor and say, "Nice boat but it wouldn't do for me with that big kicker." He then goes on to explain that he can see I'm no fisherman with a rig like that. Most places I fish certainly wouldn't require such an outfit but I often go more than 100 miles a day in the Everglades National Park country.

How much speed?

Well, in snag-infested country or where there are oyster bars, rocks and other hazards, I believe about 30 miles an hour is maximum speed for a light fishing boat. Hitting a

submerged object at that rate probably wouldn't cause any serious injury to passengers but at higher speeds it would be a different situation.

Few fishing boats go a great deal faster than that. The "average" 14-footer with a 10-horse motor should do around 15 with two aboard.

Glass and aluminum are really taking over in the field of more expensive outboards. Both are serviceable with advantages of their own. Glass is usually better looking but heavier. Aluminum can be noisy in very light weights but isn't in bigger boats. It is less likely to cut than glass but either material will take a terrific beating.

In cartop boats, I lean toward aluminum. In fact, I'm a little aluminum happy where boats are concerned but I like glass too.

The big advantage of a wooden boat is that the right guy can really build it to suit his own needs. Changes and innovations are much simpler than with aluminum or glass. I know several fishermen who have made their own and then covered them with fiberglass. The finest fishing boat I know of was made by a home craftsman from a molded plywood hull and then glassed. If built for the market it would have cost several thousand bucks and it was put together by Dr. Kenneth Dunham of Frostproof, who somehow gets more done in his spare time than I could working around the clock.

But a fishing boat is 14 feet long, four feet wide and—

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

(Continued from Page 19)

traveling, seeing a hound roll over several times, or hearing two hunters shout at a dog at the same time. I, for one, would be interested in hearing the results of the psychologists' findings on this phase of their study.

Should they include it in their evaluation of returned questionnaires and hunting incidents of record, I hope the psychologists will give proper reverence to the following:

Deep in a Southern forest there are remaining foundations of what was once the home of plantation aristocracy. On a little hill within easy walking distance of the ruins is a graveyard. One very old stone still stands, its epitah readable only if one scrapes the inscription with a stick. In late years deer hunters, like me, have crouched down behind the stone and waited patiently for the coming of daylight and deer.

One foggy dawn a hunter jumped a buck that ran through the graveyard. Just as the hunter fired at his

fast-moving target, he was horrified to see another hunter suddenly stand up, directly in his line of aim. With the shot the fellow in the graveyard dropped from sight. Convinced that he had accidentally shot another hunter, the shooter anxiously rushed forward, to find a pale and emotionally shaken man crouched low behind the tombstone—but miraculously unhurt. The narrow slab of granite had stopped the bullet! . . . The gravestone's faded inscription included the significant words "SAVING GRACE." ●

FISHING

(Continued from Page 7)

trieved unevenly, making for slack line between twitches.

Add to these problems the fact that the fish may come straight toward you and you begin to think in terms of shorter casts.

I watched an experienced bait-caster working on a school of tarpon the other day and he insisted on being at close range before he'd even try to score. Of course, the tarpon is notoriously hard to hook as compared to bass or salt water trout but the principle is the same.

I certainly miss those old green jungle boots you used to buy in the army-navy surplus stores. Made of canvas with rubber soles, they were high enough to keep the mud and sand off your feet when wading. They had "solid" tongues to keep the mud out and, all in all, they were the best Florida wading shoes you could buy.

As far as I know, none were made after World War II. A dealer told me the other day that he had considered going into the manufacture of them. I don't know if it would be profitable or not, but there are



The much lamented surplus jungle boots were perfect wading gear, but can't be bought easily anymore.

lots of inquiries for them since they disappeared.

The last ones I had finally rotted. I didn't know it had happened until I went to watch a swamp buggy race at Naples. Putting on my jungle boots, I confidently strode off through the muck. Something felt funny and when I looked down, I was wearing only the tops. The

soles were gone along with my dignity. About the next best thing is tennis shoes or the low canvas wading shoes you can buy in many sporting goods stores.

The heavyweight wading shoes sold for use in rocky streams of the North aren't necessary here and they're too expensive.

This guide gave fake names to his fishing places so his customers wouldn't learn too much.

"Where are we?" they'd ask the guide when bass fishing was particularly good.

The guide had a choice list of names on the tip of his tongue.

"This is Perkins Prairie," he'd say, or maybe, "We're fishing in Clobber's Cove."

The guide would reel off the phony names with good reason. He knew his customers might go out with other guides and give away all of his pet fishing holes.

But one week a couple of customers of his went out on their own and cleaned up. The guide furtively asked them where all the fish came from.

"Good old Perkins Prairie," they beamed. "Plenty of fish there!"

And now the guide can't remember what he called "Perkins Prairie."

MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from Page 9)

Branch, Los Angeles 58, can furnish both domestic and foreign hardwoods. Also, the previously mentioned stock-making firms—E. C. Bishop & Sons, and Reinhart Fajen—can furnish gunstock blanks . . .

Getting a ventilated rib put on a favorite shotgun now lacking this sighting aid is a job recommended for the skilled gunsmiths at Simmons Gun Specialties, Inc., 504 East 18th Street, Kansas City, Missouri. An installed shotgun barrel rib is no better than the quality of its soldered rib supports. The Simmons gunsmiths fasten rib supports to

shotgun barrel by silver soldering (brazing). The bonding alloy used is ten times stronger than soft solder and is not affected by subsequent gun rebluing jobs.

Still around are a lot of old, but otherwise mechanically sound, lever action big game rifles of long ago popularity, especially Model 1892 Winchesters and similar period rifle models in .38-70, .38-56, .45-70 and .40-82 calibers. Invariably, owners would like to fix them up and put them back into active service.

To convert the better ones to modern use and ammunition calls for certain gunsmithing services and careful use of proper ammunition thereafter.

Ward Koozer, Douglas, Arizona, gunsmith can both rechamber and rebore the Model 1892 Winchester, and similar models, to currently popular calibers, or else fit new barrels to actions in good condition.

For example, worn nickel steel barrels of mechanically sound .25-35, .30-30 and .32 Special lever-actions can be rebored and rechambered to larger caliber, or else new barrels of original caliber can be fitted—be the rifles lever or bolt action design.

Whatever your needed gunsmithing service, now is the time to do something about it—that is, if you plan to use the gun the first days of the coming hunting season. ●



FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

(Signature of Applicant)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



The eradication of Hyacinth and Alligator Weed—For Better Fishing—by crew members of the Noxious Vegetation Control program—the Crooked River, Northwest Florida—Commission Photo by Margie Yarbrough.

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